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POLL RESULTS

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The island's balletomanes had an early Christmas treat with The Nutcracker.

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'Many children with disabilities at juvenile detention' **PAGE 5**

Holdup in release of child tax credit checks upsets parents

» Fitial admin says \$1.7M for 1,400 taxpayers yet to get US Treasury nod

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

There have been delays in the release of child tax credit checks for some taxpayers, but the Fitial administration said it is partly because the U.S. Treasury has yet to respond to an additional request totaling \$1.7 million for 1,400 taxpayers.

One parent said that, just like other parents, he and his wife had expected the checks to be released in August when the administration announced the release of some 4,000 checks totaling a little over \$4 million.

"We were expecting the checks to be released prior to the opening of schools, but it's now almost Christmas," the fa-

See **HOLDUP** on **Page 4**



ART VILLAGE NO MORE

One of two Chamorro huts in the Art Village in Susupe is now a dilapidated and abandoned space as seen in this photo taken yesterday afternoon. The cultural village is supposed to permanently host the Center for the Performing Arts and Indigenous Arts since it was built in April last year in time for the 2009 Flame Tree Arts Festival, using an initial federal funding of \$16,000.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Admin wants juvenile center moved out of DCCA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration wants to transfer the management of the juvenile de-

tention facility from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs to another agency to streamline its administrative needs.

Press secretary Angel Demapan told

Saipan Tribune Friday that the Fitial administration has identified the Department of Corrections as the proper agency to handle the task.

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A Mobil Oil Marianas service station in San Jose displays the new gas prices reflecting 10 to 12 cents a gallon increase effective Saturday, or two days after a price rollback.

Mobil, Shell now have same gas prices

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After rolling back its pump prices on Thursday, Mobil Oil Marianas again increased its prices by 10 to 12 cents a gallon on Saturday.

With Mobil's latest round of price changes, the cost of gasoline at both Mo-

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'Merger with Covenant not beneficial to GOP'

» Stanley may call for House shakeup today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said a merger of the CNMI Republican Party with the Covenant Party is not beneficial to the GOP, considering the current frustration with the Fitial administration's payless pay-

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Local

Fitial disappointed with rejection of Tan re-appointment to MVA board

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitia is "very disappointed" with the Senate's rejection of his re-appointment of Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan to the Marianas Visitors Authority's board of directors, press secretary Angel Demapan said.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), whose committee recommends either confirmation or rejection of the governor's appointees, said he has nothing personal against both Fitia and Tan.

"As stated in my committee's findings, Mr. Tan has held the position of MVA chairman for the last five years and we're concerned about an apparent lack of support for tourism es-

pecially on Tinian and Rota," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

Cruz is the chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, which had recommended that the Senate reject Tan's re-appointment.

All nine senators approved the EAGI panel's recommendation during a session on Thursday.

Cruz said Fitia also line-item vetoed the fiscal year 2011 budget bill to remove subsidies for promotion of Rota and Tinian as tourist destinations.

But the Fitia administration is not buying the Senate and the EAGI Committee's reasons.

"The findings outlined in the Standing Committee Report offered high praises to the many

contributions Mr. Tan has made to the CNMI. To cite such feats then follow with a recommendation not to confirm is an action that is completely baffling and a collision of two different worlds," the governor's press secretary said.

Demapan said "Governor Fitia finds the Senate's rejection very disappointing."

"The administration strives to nominate individuals who are highly qualified and armed with the expertise that is needed to support the function of the CNMI's boards and commissions. Mr. Tan's immense business experience and deep involvement in tourism-related activities are the types of qualities we look for in selecting

a nominee to sit on the MVA board. Moreover, Mr. Tan's vast contributions to the local community are a living testament to his deep appreciation and commitment to the Northern Mariana Islands," Demapan said.

Cruz reiterated that the EAGI Committee is asking the governor to appoint board or commission members from Rota and Tinian, especially to the MVA, the Civil Service Commission, the Commonwealth Development Authority, and the Marianas Public Land Trust.

The senator said the committee is still reviewing the governor's other appointments.

The Fitia administration, for its part, said it will have to consider its other options and select

an individual with qualities that will be beneficial to the MVA board, Demapan said.

Other lawmakers said Fitia is to be blamed for the Senate's rejection of Tan's re-appointment, an accusation that the administration described as "nonsense."

The lawmakers, who requested anonymity, said the blame stems from the governor's decision not to appoint board members from Rota and Tinian and for apparently not supporting Rota and Tinian tourism, along with his remarks to the Senate EAGI Committee chairman. The governor earlier said Cruz

needed to read the Constitution. Cruz said he reads and knows the Constitution.

"The administration hopes that the EAGI will consider the qualifications and the assets that each nominee will bring to the table when deciding their next course of action," Demapan said.

The senators said that, while Tan is a talented and experienced businessman and a valued member of the community through his charitable work, "a new MVA chairman must be able to provide undivided attention to the board."

Kilili raised the most but Camacho spent the most

» FEC report: 4 delegate bets raised \$245K

The four delegate candidates in the Nov. 2 elections raised a total of \$245,332, based on the Federal Election Commission's final tally last week of the 12-day post-general financial reports.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's re-election bid raised the most with \$86,103, followed by Covenant Party candidate Joseph N. Camacho with \$70,694.

Republican Juan N. Babauta's campaign ranked third with \$51,544 raised, while Democrat Jesse C. Borja's campaign came up with \$36,991.

While Sablan raised the most, he ranked only second when it came to spending money for his campaign.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitia's candidate, Camacho, spent the most on his campaign: \$68,960 compared to Sablan's \$60,780.

However, Camacho's campaign did not itemize the "other disbursements" totaling \$61,774.

Sablan's campaign listed how the \$60,780 was spent—including the top expense of \$6,070 for Flame Tree TV Productions, and \$5,249 for a full payment of a fundraising dinner at Pacific Islands Club.

The ranking of amounts they raised corresponded to their ranking when the four-way delegate race finished: Sablan won by landslide, followed by Camacho, then Babauta and Camacho.

Of the four, only Babauta, a former governor, was listed with "candidate loans" of \$37,086.

The FEC deadline for the 12-day post-general financial reports was on Dec. 2. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

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64 students appeal denied SHEFA applications

» So far, 34 reversed by the board

The new board of the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance disclosed Friday that a total of 64 students for the Fall semester have appealed their denied applications to the board.

As of Friday more than half of them—or 34 students—have already been reviewed and granted reversals.

SHEFA first reversed the decision on 28 denied cases last month. Six additional cases were granted favorable decisions on Friday at the board meeting. These students will receive formal notices from

the board soon. The board refused to disclose the names of the six reversed applications.

It admitted, though, that the board found an oversight in the applications of many students who were denied scholarship assistance.

SHEFA officials earlier disapproved the applications of many students on the basis of “residency,” which the affected students described as “unfair” and a violation of existing policies and regulations of the scholarship program.

For the Fall semester, SHEFA received over 900 applica-

tions; 628 were approved for scholarship assistance.

According to board member Jose Leon Guerrero, new students applying for the program must attach or submit their letter of admission from the college or university they will enroll at in their application form to ensure that their packet will be honored and reviewed by the board.

The board appeals committee chair, Juan K. Tenorio, said more cases are up for review and hearing by the panel. “We have yet to issue a hearing schedule for other pending cases but we’re working on it,” he told the board. *(Moneth Deposa)*

OAG wants notorious copper wire thief’s probation revoked

The Office of the Attorney General has asked the Superior Court to revoke the probation of a convicted copper wire thief who was arrested again last month with two other men in the act of stealing copper wires from Shirley’s Restaurant in Susupe.

The OAG said that 21-year-old Shabbo C. Sablan violated the terms and conditions of his suspended sentence.

The government said Sablan failed to pay the balance of \$170 in annual probation fee and failed to complete the remaining 83.5 hours of his community service.

Sablan was arrested on Nov. 15, 2010, together with Roland R. Kaipat and Theodore O. Peh-

nos, when they were allegedly caught burglarizing Shirley’s Restaurant.

Sablan, whose probation will expire on Sept. 29, 2013, has denied violating his probation.

The court set a status conference on Dec. 30, 2010.

Sablan’s prior conviction was also related to copper wire theft. He, together with Tara Marie Namauleg and Bradley C. Palacios, stole copper wires at the house of Rudy Babauta. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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'Lots of bench warrants remain unserved'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

To help the government increased its revenue, the CNMI court marshals should be given authority to serve bench warrants, according to Deputy Marshal II Juan Atalig.

Atalig told *Saipan Tribune* that a lot of bench warrants like traffic citations are not being served because the Department of Public Safety's Summons and Warrant Section has only two assigned officers.

At present, the Marshal Service Unit has seven staff on Saipan and one on Tinian. The position of two marshals is federally funded.

Atalig said when a judge issues a bench warrant for a traffic citation, nothing happens unless the person tries to obtain a police clearance from the court.

"When people get citations, some

don't come here to court," he said.

He said some bench warrants for criminal cases have bails in the amount of \$500 and \$1,000.

"It's a good revenue. I don't know how much, but I know there's a lot," the deputy marshal said.

Atalig said the first bill giving CNMI court marshals the authority to serve the warrants was vetoed by the governor. He is hoping a similar bill now pending will become law.

Gov. Benigno Fitial had vetoed Senate Bill 17-16 in June 2010. That bill had proposed that local court marshals be given the authority to make arrests, serve processes and warrants, and carry firearms.

Fitial said the bill, introduced by Senate President Paul A. Manglona, creates a new category of law enforcement officers with what appears to be functionally identical authority as police officers.

The governor said the bill fails to identify new sources to fund collateral equipment, such as firearms or employment benefits.

Atalig is pushing for the passage of a similar bill now pending in the Senate because marshals need the authority, considering they are the enforcement arm of the court.

"For example, the jury summons. We can serve more summons than DPS because they are short-staffed," Atalig said.

Last week, marshals "grabbed" nine people from the court's lobby at the instruction of Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona when the court ran out of prospective jurors.

Atalig said another reason why they are pushing for such a bill is to get federal funding.

"Because we are not considered law enforcement, we cannot get those federal grants," he said.

Republican, then you have clout," Norman Tenorio said.

The speaker, when asked for comment, said he believes that as far as Washington, D.C. is concerned, it doesn't matter whether the CNMI is more a Republican than a Democrat or a Covenant.

Prior to becoming a Covenant Party member, Tenorio sought re-election years back under the local Democratic Party. But Tenorio said he was a member of the Republican national party before the 208 elections.

"Since then I have not been an active member but for me, I believe in the Republican Party of the United States but on the other hand, regardless, it doesn't matter locally what we are. I believe in Republican principles of pro-business, and things like that," he said.

The speaker also said he has yet to talk to the governor about the planned merger.

"I have to talk to the governor because if it is reuniting with the Republican Party, it's natural to assume there will be changes here in the House... Is he [governor] getting together with the Republicans now or is he talking about reuniting with Republicans for the election of 2012 and 2014?" he added.

He said if the merger happens now, he may have to step down because that means he will be with the same party as Benavente, who wants to become speaker again.

is what majority of members want.

"I also cautioned the leadership that people are continuously frustrated with the governor's administration, whether it's the economy, payless paydays, cut in pay," Benavente said, adding that the governor failed to deliver on his promise to revive the economy during two elections.

Benavente is poised to seek re-election in the 2012 midterm elections.

Fitial, a Republican national party member and a former member of the CNMI Republican party, founded the Covenant Party in 2001 for his first gubernatorial bid that didn't succeed. He won in his second attempt in 2005.

Norman Tenorio, a former committee member to the Republican National Committee, also believes that the proposed merger is beneficial more to the Covenant Party than to the local Republican Party. But he said "politics" is at work.

"This is part of the game. And whatever is good for the party, for the individuals, that's how it [is]. I guess... maybe it's an advantage for the Covenant to join with the Republicans," he said.

He said now that the Republicans will take control of the U.S. Congress next year, the CNMI needs all the clout it could get.

"Because when you're in Washington and you say you're a Covenant, I mean nobody knows who the Covenantants are but when you say you're a

account. Once that transfer posts into the CNMI's coffers, the CNMI Treasury will then run those checks and send them out to the respective recipients," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

There is no telling whether these checks will be approved and sent out to CNMI parents in time for Christmas.

In addition, there are a total of 182 returns totaling \$160,000 that are still undergoing the review process at the local level.

Demapan said these are the last remaining returns that had deficiencies and were corrected by their respective filers.

"Once the local review is completed, then a request will be sent to the U.S. Treasury for their review, approval, and transfer of funds before the CNMI Treasury can issue these checks," the press secretary said.

'Earning bank interest? Not true'

In a phone interview, the parent said he heard that the CNMI government may have also been intentionally keeping

the federal checks longer at local banks to earn interest for the local government, before sending out to taxpayers.

This concern has been shared by other parents.

But the governor's press secretary clarified that this is not true.

"As for the allegation of the CNMI withholding federal child tax funds to earn interests in the account, that is completely false. These are not CNMI funds to begin with and the Commonwealth has been in full compliance in terms of issuing out checks that equal the amount of funds that get transferred from the U.S. Treasury to the CNMI," he said.

The federal child tax credit is available to taxpayers who have a child under the age of 17.

In general, a "qualifying" child is any individual for whom the taxpayer can claim a dependency exemption and who is the taxpayer's son or daughter, stepson or stepdaughter, brother or sister, or eligible foster child.

The child tax credit is up to \$1,000

Governor inks bills on Rota funding, 5-year cockpit licensing for Saipan

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed two local bills into local laws last week, including appropriating \$5,900 in poker license fees to fund three Rota programs and extending from one to five years a cockpit license for operators on Saipan.

Fitial signed Rep. Ray N. Yumul's (R-Saipan) House Local Bill 17-21, which amended the Saipan Cockfighting Act of 1994. HLB 17-21 is now Saipan Local Law 17-5.

Yumul, in an interview, said the new law gives incentives to cockpit operators to make major improvements to their facilities knowing that they have five years to recoup their investments.

"Right now, because the license is only for one year, operators are hesitant to make improvements to the cockpit because they fear losing their investment if their license is not renewed. The new local law will change the dynamics of that," Yumul told *Saipan Tribune*.

Under the new local law, the minimum bid is \$10,000 a year but Yumul said whatever was the amount on the first year should be the same amount in the succeeding years.

"So if the winning bid is \$23,000 a year, then the operator needs to have the same amount every year until the license expires after the five-year period," he said, adding that regulations have yet to be formulated.

The governor also signed into Rota Local Law 17-9 a local bill introduced by Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota).

Santos's House Local Bill 17-29 appropriates \$5,900 in local poker license fees to the following programs: Rota government department's fuel and lubrication, \$3,000; Rota Liaison Office/Medical Referral Office's operations and supply, \$1,900; and Rota Liaison Office/Medical Referral Office's fuel and lubrication, \$1,000. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

MOBIL

From Page 1

bil and Shell Marianas service stations on Saipan are now similar.

Saipan motorists saw five price changes from Mobil and one from Shell last week totaling 10 to 12 cents a gallon, barely a month after a 5-cent a gallon increase in early

November.

Mobil and Shell's full-service regular gasoline is now \$4.159 a gallon, while self-service regular gasoline is now \$4.029 a gallon.

Full-service super gasoline at Mobil and Shell stations is \$4.469 a gallon, while self-service is \$4.349 a gallon.

Diesel is at \$4.219 a gallon.

The prices displayed at the gasoline service stations are for self-service.

ADMIN

From Page 1

"The administration is proposing to transfer the juvenile detention unit facility from DCCA to DOC. Given the line of responsibilities associated with both the juvenile detention unit and the corrections facility, the administration finds that placing both under the same authority would result in streamlining the administrative needs of both facilities," Demapan said.

Moreover, such a move will be in line with the administration's aim to align related functions so that departments will be able to develop a more effective approach in providing services to the public, he added.

Saipan Tribune learned that the proposal is now being reviewed and

finalized by the Office of the Attorney General.

Early this year, the Fitial administration commissioned the Virginia-based Management Analysis Inc. to conduct a desk audit on government agencies. The transfer of the management of the juvenile detention center was among the audit findings.

The consultant recommended moving the juvenile detention unit to the Department of Corrections, and moving DCCA's Juvenile Probation Unit under the Superior Court.

At present, DCCA is responsible for the juvenile detention unit, with instructional services for detained youths provided by the Public School System.

Demapan said the administration is hopeful that this matter will be resolved soon.

HOLDUP

From Page 1

ther, who requested anonymity, told *Saipan Tribune*. He has been expecting some \$1,400 in checks for his two children.

Other parents interviewed said one of their Christmas wishes is to receive their child tax credit checks, so they could buy presents for their children.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said to date, a total of \$5.8 million in child tax credit checks have been released to some 4,400 taxpayers.

He said an additional request totaling \$1.7 million for 1,400 taxpayers was sent to the U.S. Treasury some three weeks ago for their review and approval.

"As of this time, the U.S. Treasury has yet to issue a response to this outstanding request. Once U.S. Treasury issues their approval, they will transfer \$1.7 million into the local government

per "qualifying" child.

'Missing, not moving'

The same parent said when he inquired at the CNMI Treasury in August, he was told that the check was issued Aug. 18 and was mailed out.

Weeks passed but he had not received the checks so he inquired with Treasury again. He said Treasury told him to wait a month and then file Form 3911 at the CNMI Division of Revenue and Taxation.

"The reason for the wait, as we were told, was basically to make sure that the check was lost and nobody had gone to the bank to cash it," the parent said, adding that he and his wife filed the required form on Sept. 24.

He said an employee at the division stamped and received the form, and told them that "she would submit along with others to Treasury the following Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2010. As we are all aware, the CNMI government shut down that week," the parent said.

A month after that, the parent fol-

lowed up with Treasury, only to find out that the Form 3911 had not been received yet from the Division of Revenue and Taxation.

He said the division told him that they still had the forms, waiting for the director to sign.

"When asked if I could get a copy of the Form 3911, she told me she could not find it and wanted me to fill out a new one. I left and drove to Treasury to submit our received copy of the F3911..." he said.

The press secretary said there are established procedures to address missing checks.

He said this involves verification with the bank to ensure that the check had not been cashed by anyone. If not, then the bank is requested to issue a stop payment order on that specific check number. The bank will then acknowledge the stop payment and provide a special form to the account holder. That taxpayer can bring that form to the CNMI Treasury for the issuance of a replacement check.

'Many children with disabilities at juvenile detention'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Contrary to Melvin Faisao's declaration, many children with disabilities currently reside or have resided at the Kagman Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facility, according to the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

In NMPASI's amended complaint filed with the federal court, attorney Matthew J. Holley described in detail a list of several known children with developmental disabilities and/or mental illness that reside or have resided at the Juvenile Detention Unit.

Holley said the seven detainees are either currently residing at the JDU or have resided at the facility during Faisao's relative-

ly short tenure as Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary.

Holley said JDU also has several children who were in special education. A child in special education necessarily has a disability and is entitled to NMPASI's services, he added.

NMPASI had sued Faisao after the JDU allegedly denied it access to the facility. NMPASI has alleged that it has one client at the JDU that has asked for NMPASI's services.

NMPASI asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to declare this denial of access to the JDU facility and its residents as a violation of the Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals Act of 1991, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, and the Protection and Advocacy for

Individual Rights Act.

Faisao, through the Office of the Attorney General, asked the court to dismiss the complaint.

In his declaration issued last month, Faisao JDU does not currently keep any individuals with developmental disabilities and with mental illnesses and has not done so during his tenure as DCCA Secretary.

NMPASI filed an amended complaint on Thursday to include a list of juveniles with disabilities at the JDU. NMPASI also filed its opposition to dismiss the case.

Holley said that Faisao, instead of impeding NMPASI's access to children at the JDU, should be requesting, even demanding, that NMPASI advocate on behalf of these children with disabilities.

New SHEFA administrator vows to cut costs

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Henry Hofschneider has taken over the reins of the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance as its administrator, vowing to improve the delivery of services to students by cutting down on expenses without sacrificing accuracy and staff capability.

Hofschneider was officially affirmed and welcomed to the post during Friday's board of directors meeting.

This is the first time the program has an administrator since its inception in 2004.

Board chair Jose Mafnas said Friday that SHEFA is grateful to Saipan Mayor Donald Flores for providing the assistance to the program.

Right now, Hofschneider's salary is shouldered by the Saipan Mayor's Office until SHEFA can come up with its own personnel funding.

Hofschneider will be assisted at the SHEFA office by Jeffrey Tomokane. His salary also comes from the mayor's office.

In his first report to the board, Hofschneider said he will submit a report on what improvements need to be made to the program so it will run efficiently and speed up delivery of services to the students.

"There are ways to cut down on expenses and improve response time for delivery of services and information without sacrificing accuracy and staff capability."

He said as soon as the Finance Department makes available details of SHEFA's budget, a more realistic plan on improving their office equipment will be developed. The SHEFA office is currently equipped with three computers, a copier, two printers, a typewriter, and telephones. Hofschneider pointed out the need to replace the outdated copier and add more phone lines.

No full-time employees

Hofschneider said SHEFA has had no full-time employees

since 2004. The office has always been manned by two independent contractors that the SHEFA board had contracted to run the day-to-day operations of the office. These contracts were not renewed on Sept. 30.

Hofschneider said the Workforce Investment Agency has been helping the office by assigning two temporary trainees that assist the two contractors.

"As in the past and up to this day, the SHEFA office has been availing to the WIA for temporary employees to perform clerical assistance," he said.

Hofschneider said that Saipan Local Law 13-21 recommends full-time employees for SHEFA. This is why the agency was appropriated \$100,000 for personnel and operations costs and \$3 million for the program's financial assistance.

'7 questionable PRs'

Hofschneider also disclosed

seven purchase requisitions that he considers questionable as these were signed between Oct. 14 through Nov. 3, when the term of former board chair Felicidad Ogumoro had already expired.

He said the question concerning the authority of the former chairperson to expend SHEFA funds goes directly to her status as a board member as of Oct. 1, 2010.

Among these questionable transactions were the billing received from the Law Office of Ramon Quichocho amounting to \$1,500, which the board rejected on Friday. The \$2,450 charge for the program's annual report did not also pass the board's approval for being "too expensive."

The board also authorized Hofschneider to negotiate the building's maintenance contract and media subscriptions.



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Salvation Army launches Angel Tree program

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Salvation Army on Saipan, an international faith-based organization, launched Friday its Angel Tree program at Bank of Hawaii Garapan branch.

The Angel Tree program is part of Salvation Army's Toy Drive campaign in which various establishments are invited to set up and decorate Christmas trees and ask their customers to donate toys to be placed under the Angel Tree for less fortunate community members.

Bank of Hawaii is this year's first sponsor for the Angel Tree program.

John Sheather, Bank of Hawaii senior vice president and deputy division manager for the



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Salvation Army Saipan Outpost Ministry Leaders Wayne and Annie Gillespie pose with Bank of Hawaii senior vice president and deputy division manager for Pacific Islands Division John Sheather and assistant vice president and service manager for CNMI branches Lisa San Nicolas during the launching of the Angel Tree program at the bank's Garapan Branch on Dec. 10.

Pacific islands division, said this is the first time their company sponsored the program.

"What we want to do is support Salvation Army and its programs. It is important for Bank of Hawaii to make sure that their organization meets its goals," Sheather told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said their Chalan Kanoa branch also hosts an Angel Tree.

Aside from hosting the Angel Trees, Bank of Hawaii will also support the Christmas Kettle program in both Saipan branches.

The Christmas Kettle Program is an annual fundraising activity for the Salvation Army, during which volunteers called kettle ringers ring bells and solicit spare change donations from holiday shoppers.

According to Sheather, a total of 10 red kettles have been placed on bank teller counters of the Garapan and Chalan Kanoa Branch.

"We will encourage our clients and bring the kettles to their

attention," he said.

Sheather also said at least 10 Bank of Hawaii staff, including himself, have volunteered to be kettle ringers at the primary kettle site at the Joeten Superstore on Dec. 18.

Salvation Army ministry leader Wayne Gillespie said that Bank of Hawaii has been a key supporter of their programs this year.

In October, Bank of Hawaii gave \$70,000 to the Salvation Army, which will be used to build their homeless drop-in center project.

"Bank of Hawaii has done a lot for us this year. We are extremely grateful to them for hosting our kettle and angel tree programs," said Gillespie.

Gillespie encouraged the public to drop off their toy donations not only for young children but also for 12 years or older at any Bank of Hawaii locations.

Gillespie also invited any establishment interested in sponsoring their Angel Tree program to contact him at 483-0885.

Parents' summit highlights student achievements and ARRA projects

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over a hundred parents of public schoolchildren on Saipan graced Friday's third annual parents' summit, with speakers focusing on educating participants about students' academic achievements and other issues surrounding the education system on island.

In a ceremony held at Marianas High School, Board of Education member Herman T. Guerrero and Education Commission Rita A. Sablan recognized the commitment and involvement shown by parents in the progress of their students.

Guerrero encouraged the crowd to continue to get involved in the activities of their children.

"Like the board, you have to speak up on behalf of the kids. It's your job to defend their rights and you should take advantage of what is being offered to you so you will be well-informed about the many issues in your kid's education," he said.

He said parental involvement "is a permanent contract" that must always be fulfilled.

Juan Sablan, president of the PSS Parents Council acknowledged the PSS and the board's

efforts in helping parents work with their children and teachers.

Among the presenters during the breakout sessions were associate commissioner Jackie Quitugua, who spoke about student achievements for school year 2009-2010; and Sablan and Jack Diaz, who explained the importance of securing federal funds for students' success such as the Title I requirements.

Vina Saures was also seen discussing with parents how to start conversations with their children.

Other presenters were associate commissioner James Peter Leau, finance director Richard Waldo, and financial consultant Ed Tenorio, who all spoke about school projects funded by federal grants; Glenn Muña and Katrina Lizama, who spoke about parental involvement; Jonas Barcinas and Rachel Fusco for PSS projects; and Lynette Villagomez, who shared students academic achievements.

Parents were also provided information about PSS' strategic priorities and participated in the panel discussion.

PSS conducted the parents' summit on Rota and Tinian earlier last week.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Jury selection cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors for panels "ES" that the jury selections scheduled for today, Dec. 13, 2010, at 8:30am in Courtroom 202A are cancelled until further notice. For further information, contact Dora SN. Decena, jury coordinator, or Rosie Jane T. Ada, deputy clerk, at 236-9765. (PR)

Tanapag school sets cub scouts, boy scouts meeting

The Tanapag Elementary School Cub Scouts Pack 910 and Boy Scout Troop 910 will be having

a meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 6pm, at the Tanapag Elementary School cafeteria. The agenda will include recruitment of adult leaders, youth protection and safety awareness, money earning project, uniform, and the 2011 CNMI Boy Scouting week activities. There will also be registration for cub scouts (boys ages 7-10) and boy scouts (boys ages 11-17). The registration starts at 5pm at the Tanapag Elementary School. For more information about the meeting and the registration, call Oscar C. Camacho at 234-6246 or Calistro I. Reyes at 285-9709. (PR)

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Matua Riders gives gifts, donation to man'amko

Christmas arrived early for the *man'amko* when members of the Matua Riders visited them at the Aging Center on Dec. 10.

The Matua Riders, a group of motorcycle enthusiasts, visits the island's senior citizens every holiday season to give them gifts.

Saipan Seniors Advisory Council chair Teresita Sorroza said the Matua Riders gave them stuffed animals and raffled off exciting prizes, including gift certificates for lunch, dinner, massage, and spa treatments.

In addition to the toys and raffle prizes, Sorroza said the Matua Riders also made a donation worth \$500 to the *man'amko*.

"We're so happy. Even if we're already old, we enjoyed our stuffed animal gifts as well as the prizes," Sorroza told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sorroza said the Aging Center congregates were also entertained by the Korean Women's Association on Dec. 7. According to Sorroza, the



Officers of the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council pose for a group photo with the Matua Riders and the Kung Flu Fighter campaign mascot last Dec. 10 at the Aging Center.

group also gave them a \$500 donation.

"It's really a great Christmas for the *man'amko*," she added.

Aside from the Matua Riders, the *man'amko* also welcomed another guest on Friday, the Department of Public Health's Kung Flu Fighter campaign mascot.

Sorroza said the *man'amko* had fun as they took turns posing with the Kung Flu Fighter mascot. (Clarissa David)

Only 3 judges hold hearings in 3rd partial court closures

Only three judges held hearings on Friday in the third partial closure of court operations.

Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman held hearings on Tinian, while associate judge Ramona V. Manglona presided over a daylong continuation of a jury trial of two suspected "ice" traffickers.

Presiding judge Robert C. Naraja held hearings in the morning.

A court staff told *Saipan Tribune* that associate judges Kenneth Govendo and Perry B. Inos were present, but there were no hearing in their respective courtrooms.

Aside from the judges, only five court staff members, including two whose positions are federally funded, were on duty.

The cashier, recorder, and administration offices were closed.

There were no hearings too at the CNMI Supreme Court

but three law clerks and another staff were seen working.

Three court marshals were on duty.

Just like in previous partial court closures, many customers who wanted to pay for police clearances, car registrations, and traffic clearances were surprised when marshals informed them that the cashier's office was closed.

Deputy marshal John Atalig said they referred many customers to the Revenue and Taxation in Dandan. Customers who wanted to pay for driver's licenses were told to return on Monday.

The Judiciary began implementing the partial closure of court operations every other Friday on Saipan on Nov. 12 due to the lack of funds. By Jan. 1, 2011, court operations will be partially closed every Friday on Saipan. (Ferdie de la Torre)

2 'ice' trafficking suspects placed under house arrest

Two suspects in an "ice" trafficking case were placed under house arrest Friday at the request of a prosecutor.

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona gave the order for Ignacio A. Deleon Guerrero Sr. and George Taitano Manglona's house arrest at the request of assistant attorney general Russell Lorfing, who told the court he is scared because Manglona is upset with him after seeing him talk to a witness.

Saipan Tribune learned that the issue arose when Judge Manglona ordered a break in the trial after an informant had just been sworn in. Judge Manglona instructed the informant not to talk to anybody about the case.

During the break, defendant

Manglona allegedly saw Lorfing talking with the witness. Manglona informed his counsel, assistant public defender Michael Brown, about the incident. When the hearing resumed, Brown immediately informed the judge about what had happened.

Lorfing explained to the judge that the brief discussion was not about the case and that he told the informant not to talk to him and assistant attorney general Shelli Neal.

Members of the CNMI Drug Task Force arrested Deleon Guerrero and Manglona on March 10, 2010 for trafficking of a controlled substance, and illegal possession of controlled substance. The two have pleaded not guilty. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipáttamenton I Tano’ Puplicu

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSIONS FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extensions of leases on certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. These lease extensions are subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The leased premises are described as public land Lot Nos. 057 E 09, containing an area of approximately 3,245 square meters, more or less, and 057 E 10, containing an area of approximately 3,245 square meters, more or less, both situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The lessee is South Pacific Lumber Company, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are James C. Whang and Charles C. Whang.

The President/Secretary/Treasurer of the Corporation is James C. Whang. The Vice President is Charles C. Whang.
- iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. James C. Whang.
- iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating warehouses, office spaces and show rooms.

The term of the lease agreement extensions is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.
- v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before December 24, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN INEKSTENDEN INATKILON TANO’ PUBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Puplicu 15-2, i Dipattamenton Tano’ Puplicu guini ha nã’i notisia ni intesion-ña para u rekomenda i inekstenden inatkilon gi pumalu na tâno’ puplicu siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Este na inekstenden atkilon siha manmasuheto para i inapreban i Lehislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas gi sigun ni mamânda ni mapega huyong gi Attikilu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha hâyi na petsona siha gi halom i puplicu henerât siha ha na’hâlom i infotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñon kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tâno’ puplicu. Sigi mäs mo’na mapribeniyi ginen i Lain Puplicu 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesen infotmasion ni madimânda ni debi na u mapupblika.

- i. I lugât atkilon siha madeskribe komu tano’ puplicu Lot Nos. 057 E 09, kinonsiste ârian kâsi guaha 3,245 square meters, potlumenus mäs, yan 057 E10, kinonsiste âria kâsi guaha 3,245 square meters, potlumenus mäs, parehu gaige gi Lower Base, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugât gaige na gumuaha gi Dipattamenton Tano’ Puplicu siha ni para i rikonosimiento.
- ii. I manatikila i Kompanian i South Pacific Lumber, i CNMI Corporation. I Kuetpon i Direktot i Corporation siha si James C. Whang yan si Charles C. Whang.

I Presidente/sekritário/Tresureron i Corporation si James C. Whang. I Segundo na Presidente si Charles C. Whang.
- iii. I mapropone na ekstension atkilon manegosio gi as Siñot James C. Whang.
- iv. I manatikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugât siha uniku para i rason i maneran warehouses, kâmpon ofisina siha yan show rooms.

I teman i kontrâtan atkilon ha ekstende gi 15 âños.

I mapropone na atkilon säkkan durânten i tema sigun i percentage gi bâlen i fair market value gi propiadât siha.
- v. Kopian i manmapropone na ekstension atkilon na kontrâta siha siha machule’ gi ofisinan i Dipattamenton Tano’ Puplicu siha, gaige i segundo bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; Songsong, Luta; pat i primet 1st floor gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. I Dipattamenton Tano’ Puplicu siha tâya’ ha risibi tinahguen propositu siha para suheton atkilon tâno’ puplicu siha giya Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. I Sekritâron i Dipattamenton Tano’ Puplicu siha debi na u aksepta i tinige’ i infotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñon kinentra pat tinahguen propositu siha ginen i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat ântes di Disembre 24, 2010 gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano’ Puplicu siha ni gaige Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekki atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Kkapasal akkilon ye e sobwosobw nge ebwe alughulugh mereel Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature sangi Article XI, Talil 5(c) mellól Allegh Lapalap Commonwealth Teel faluw kka faluwasch Efang Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiyghiir, aweewe, aingingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoor, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekki bwaári Lot No. 057 E 09, eyoor eluuw sangaras ruwabwughuw faigh me limwoow (3, 245 square meters), elapeló me ngäre eghús, me 057 E 10, eyoor eluuw sangaras ruwabwughuw faigh me limwoow (3,245 square meters) elap me ngäre eghus, elo Lower Base, Seipel.. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngäre óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge South Pacific Lumber Company, CNMI corporation. Schóóy Assamwoolul mwíisch (board of directors) mellól corporation nge James C. Whang me Charles C. Whang..

Samwoolul/Treasurer/Sekkretorial corporation nge James C. Whang. Aruscheyil samwool nge Charles Whang.
- iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. James C. Whang..
- iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááli bwuley reel ammwelil warehouse (sokko), office spaces (leliyal bwulasiyo) me leliyal akkate (show rooms)..

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years).

Pomwol akkilon yeel llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sáangi llapal méél falúw (value of the property) me bwal meeta kka e akkayú mellol bwuley yeel.
- v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songsong, Luuta; me ngäre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tehúlúyól.
- vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipél..
- vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingingil mereel amweyút mmwal December 24, 2010 (Tumwur) mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tehúlúyól.

US House
OKs Kilili’s
Byrne Justice
grant bill

» Provides state-equivalent funding for CIPA

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The House of Representatives has passed H.R. 3353, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan’s bill ensuring a full “state” share of funding for the Commonwealth under the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program. The funds go to the Criminal Justice Planning Agency, which then subgrants to other entities in the Commonwealth engaged in law enforcement, corrections, crime victim assistance, and the court system.

“Funding will triple for these crime prevention and public safety activities under terms of H.R. 3353,” Sablan explained. “Currently, the Commonwealth shares a ‘state’ share of funding with American Samoa. American Samoa get two-third and we get one-third. Under my bill both American Samoa and the Commonwealth will get a full state share of funding, which would have been about \$1.1 million last year.”

In order to become law the bill must still win approval in the Senate and be signed by the President.

“Now that we have gotten the bill through the House—by voice vote, without any objection—we can try to get the Senate to approve by unanimous consent. This is not a controversial measure; but the Senate has a very full agenda and time is short,” Sablan said.

Sablan has already been successful at moving his bill through the House by getting bipartisan support.

“It’s always nice to hear no ‘nays’ when the Chair calls for a vote on your bill,” he said.

Getting state-equivalent funding has been a long-time goal of the Northern Marianas in Washington. Previous Resident Representatives lobbied hard for the change in funding formula, but were not able to get it changed.

“It’s a measure of the power of having a seat in Congress that we have been able to get the Byrne grant formula change approved by the House. But, even so, it takes time and persistence,” said the Commonwealth’s congressman.

If the Senate does not pass the bill, Sablan promised to reintroduce the measure in January, when the 112th Congress begins its work. (PR)



Dec. 13, 1999

CDA sets stage for SBDC takeover

The Commonwealth Development Authority is finalizing an agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration to set the stage for its takeover of the management of the local Small Business Development Center. CDA Board Chair John S. Tenorio said he will discuss with the Northern Marianas College the possibility of forging a partnership to allow the agency use NMC’s facility while its runs the program. According to Mr. Tenorio, CDA will evaluate the performance of the current staff and decide who should be retained or removed.

Protecting Managaha will pave way for more fed grants

The proposed marine conservation area in Managaha island and surrounding waters will pave the way for more federal funding and designation of other protected areas in the Northern Marianas, according to the Coastal Resources Management. Since CRM is the key agency working with the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, its acting director Peter J. Barlas said the legislative proposal is a step in the right direction toward the success of the local Coral Reef Initiative. “We anticipate future funding from the federal government to achieve the objectives of the CNMI local Coral Reef Initiative which will lead to the delineation and creation of additional [Marine Protected Area] throughout” the island, he said.

Dec. 13, 2000

EPA: Low PCB concentration in root crops

The level of polychlorinated biphenyl contamination in the samples of taro and yams tested from Tanapag village is at least 10 times lower than the level considered as toxic by guidelines set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. This was pointed out by EPA Pacific Insular Area Programs Manager Norman L. Lovelace, who added that the findings were based on the unlimited consumption of food with PCB concentration, including shellfish, taro and yams, by children. Mr. Lovelace said the difference on the reporting units of concentration made by EPA and the independent specialists resulted in the confusion which made it appear that the level of concentration is about 1,000 times higher than the actual number.

AGO offers ways on better use of credit cards

The Attorney General’s Office yesterday offered suggestions on the better use of credit cards especially during the holiday season when people spent hundreds, or even thousands, of dollars using what has been called the plastic money. Plastic is quickly overtaking cash and checks as the primary method of payment by consumers. The AGO said a few precautions should be strictly observe to ensure that the charges billed on consumers’ credit card are actually theirs. Consumer Counsel David Lachobay, in a media statement, said consumers should immediately sign their credit cards as soon as they arrive since signature verification by merchants is the single most effective guard against unauthorized use of the cards.

Dec. 13, 2001

No overpayment of legal services, NMIRF insists

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund never overpaid Eason and Halsell in October because the Fund actually owed money to this law firm, representing unpaid billings incurred during the duration of its contract with the Fund. This was stressed by Fund legal counsel Kathleen Troy-Rucker in her response to an OPA query over an October payment made by the Fund to the law firm. Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan had asked acting Fund Administrator Takeo George to explain why the Fund paid the law firm in October, when an OPA audit had shown that the Fund overpaid the contractor \$9,586.33.

Officials, activists harmonize to protect NMI’s environment

Despite occasional clashes between the Environmental Protection Agency, the Division of Environmental Quality and environmental activists in the CNMI, all these groups ultimately share the same goal-to protect the health of the people. This was pointed out by John P. McCarroll, the new manager of the EPA’s Pacific Insular Area Program, during an interview with reporters yesterday. McCarroll conceded that the EPA has been scored by the Tanapag Action Group for going ahead with the plan to locally treat the PCB-laced soil in Tanapag Village but he said he plans to meet with the TAG to thresh out their differences and find ways to come to a common understanding.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

What to do about WikiLeaks

(c) 2010, Los Angeles Times

U.S. officials reportedly are hoping to capitalize on the arrest of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange in London this week by having him extradited to this country for criminal prosecution. Based on what is known about WikiLeaks' release of hundreds of thousands of confidential documents, that would be a mistake.

Assange was jailed in Britain on Tuesday in connection with charges of sexual assault filed against him in Sweden. U.S. officials, meanwhile, are clearly eager to prosecute him for the leaks, if not under the 1917 Espionage Act then for other criminal charges, including receiving stolen property. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. said that a "very serious criminal investigation" is under way.

But there are potential legal problems with any prosecution. Equally important, punishing Assange for publishing leaked documents would upend an understanding, honored by both Democratic and Republican administrations, that laws against the release of classified information won't be enforced against the media.

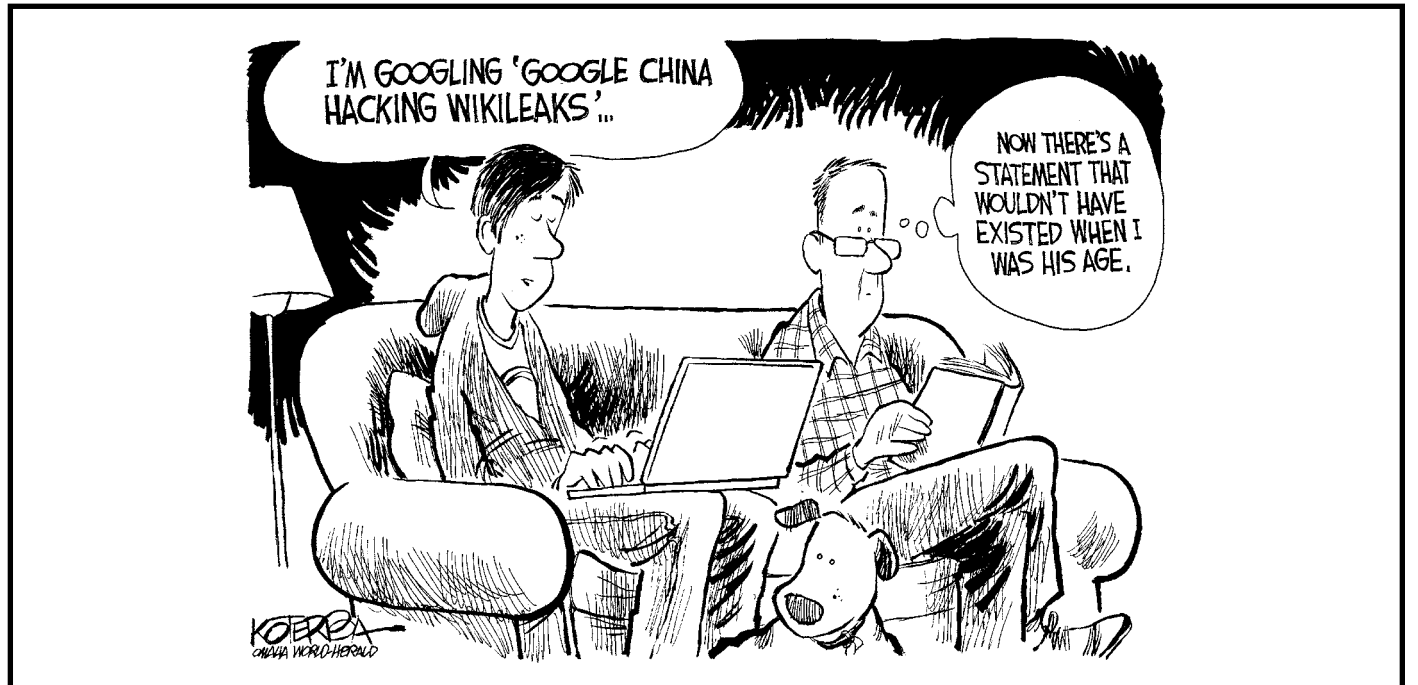
Most speculation about a prosecution has focused on the Espionage Act. Some language in that law arguably could be applied to Assange. For example, it forbids anyone who has unauthorized possession of national defense information to communicate, deliver or transmit it to "any person not entitled to receive it."

But the same section requires that the person providing the information have reason to believe it "could be used to the injury of the United States or to the advantage of any foreign nation." Applying that language to Assange is a tricky business. He would no doubt argue — honestly — that his expectation was that release of the documents actually would serve U.S. interests by exposing official wrongdoing to the citizenry.

Prosecuting Assange for receiving stolen property also would be difficult. He could argue that he obtained not government records — the originals of which are still in the possession of the Pentagon and the State Department — but copies.

The most important argument against prosecuting Assange, however, is that doing so would undermine freedom of the press. Penalties have been imposed in the past on government employees who have leaked confidential information, but not on the reporters or editors who published it. Is Assange a journalist? Assuming that he received and published information rather than obtaining it on his own, the answer seems to us to be yes. In principle, we can't see a difference between WikiLeaks and one of the newspapers that published the information.

Governments and private citizens are free to excoriate Assange and to decline to assist his operation, as Amazon did in removing WikiLeaks from its servers. But, based on present knowledge, criminal prosecution would be an ominous overreaction.



Literacy: An important weapon to economic strength

Over 75 percent of unemployed adults have reading and writing difficulties. Many employees are also almost illiterate and have great difficulty in applying information from a text to a required task. In the CNMI, low literacy of local employees is one of the major complaints aired by the hospitality industry and other industries that desire to hire our citizens. These companies complain that many adults have such a low literacy that it is difficult to train them. To our shame many nonresident workers have a fairly higher level of literacy than some of us. Why is that?

The final result with a low literacy level is that we resign ourselves to a low paying and a low level job. We become trapped. As members of our community we must become concerned, otherwise we indirectly doom ourselves to the same fate that illiterates have doomed themselves to. Business cannot operate without literate resident employees. Low literacy level also affects our government operations. If this problem is not corrected, the CNMI, from necessity, will continue to depend on nonresident workers.

How can we learn to read and write better? How can we operate a computer if we remain illiterate? How do we improve our positions and salaries at work if we don't improve our ability to read and write better? Work sites are not a substitute for schools. We must motivate ourselves or accept our fate of low pay and menial work. There is no shame for having low literacy. The shame lies in not doing something about it. Let me relate my personal story.

When I attended school, I never learned how to read and study and did not care. My parents couldn't help me because they had never attended school as children in Italy. As a result I was a C student most of the time with a great sprinkling of D's and F's. I knew A's and B's only as the first two letters of the alphabet, but rarely saw them on my report cards.

Upon graduation from high school I drifted from job to job for several years. Often I had two or three different jobs in one week. I kept bouncing around and around from job to job. After working in so many various jobs, I realized that I didn't enjoy work using my back as a laborer. So at 20 years old I asked my parents to allow me to go to college. Without any money and not knowing what I was going to study, I applied with my local college. All I knew was that I needed an education.

When I applied at the local teachers' college, my high school grades were so poor that the dean refused to let me enroll. I pleaded with him to let me try just one semester on probation. If I didn't make the required grades, I would quietly leave. Reluctantly, he let me enroll.

The first year was a nightmare; I didn't know how to read or how to study. In addition I didn't know what subjects to take. I took whatever was suggested to me as a freshman. But then I became lucky.

I met a great guy, a military veteran, who had enrolled at the same time I did. As we became friends, he began to teach me how to study, what to look for in an assignment, how to read better and faster and lots of other little tricks. Boy, what a treasure chest this guy was. He opened my eyes and my head.

My friend motivated me so much that I would spend hours in the library reading five or more different books concurrently. Because of that I missed many classes, preferring to read on my own. I had discovered the world of books, which has become a lifetime passion.

Finally after four exciting years—exciting because I proved the

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



dean wrong and myself right—I got my bachelor of education degree, a teaching degree. After that I continued my education and earned a master of Liberal Arts degree. But why am I relating this account of myself? The most valuable lesson I learned from that experience was a lifelong habit of studying and a curiosity for wanting to know more and more.

Luckily I learned the skill and art of reading and studying and that has made the difference in my life. I discovered that whenever I ventured into a new job, the fact that I had learned how to study made the difference between success and failure. Later on, when I started my own businesses, this skill quickly allowed me to master whatever venture I entered. So it can be for all of us. As a side note; my sister got her college degree at 59 years old. She was a late bloomer. Never to late to improve.

Why not seek out a friend who you know is a slow or a poor reader and motivate him to improve his reading. Offer to get him started by showing him how he can improve his reading ability and why he should. This act of kindness can become a turning point in his life. Encouraging him to become a better reader is a gift of a lifetime which will never wear out and can never be broken or stolen. Wipe away his secret embarrassment and give him a fresh opportunity to succeed.

When I was living in Hawaii, the manager of my construction company was almost illiterate. As we worked together, I suggested to him to let me help him improve his reading ability. He agreed. Because he was a great scuba diver, I asked him to teach me how to dive. So over the next several years, he taught me scuba diving and I taught him reading.

Our relationship goes back over 30 years. Whenever we talk to one another on Skype, we remind each other of the lifetime gifts we exchanged. Though I don't dive any more, he still reads and is now even writing poetry. Why don't you also open the door to a friend to the world of reading? It will be a gift for life.

Most of us are embarrassed to let anyone know we are poor readers. We hide this fact for some irrational reason, especially from our family and friends. Yet refusing to improve our reading ability is like a sick person not wishing to get well. We become frustrated at not being selected for the job we want; we get passed over for promotions and pay increases. Soon we become frustrated and angry at everyone except ourselves.

We must develop basic skills and literacy in our limited labor force. It is a smart investment. If we fail to act now the future will remain bleak for our community. The era of technology has dominated our economic world. Woe to the person who does not become a part of it. To the learned ones go the spoils.

One of the commonest excuses that many of us give for not improv-

See LITERACY on Next Page

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A Dalian dalliance

Dalliance is used here in its old meaning of brief and casual involvement. We executed a gracious, brief and casual exit of *Dong Bei* from Shenyang to Dalian, then points south.

Dalian was our chosen port of departure from *Dong Bei*. The airfare to Saipan from Shenyang through Pusan is costlier than Dalian through Incheon, so we went back on the rails to the former warm water Russian port city. Given that we had the time, and the inclination to play sociological voyeur to peoples' behavior inasmuch as we blend easily into the local sidings, the rails allow us to be a quiet intrusion.

We passed up the local third-class cabin unfrequented by non-Putunghua speakers, where we are a rarity and an immediate celebrity when the word spreads out that a *'Firipinren'* is in their midst. Then our covert foreign-ness (pronounced with a guttural "g") becomes overt. We splurged on a less crowded four-seat abreast cabin this time, one with table covers and seat headresses, and a western commode at the head.

Between Shenyang *Bei* (north) and Shenyang *Nan* (south)—*Beijing* and *Nanjing*, north and south cities for those curious from whence the names came from—train stations are tall buildings on both sides of the track under construction save that this winter, it appears like the work is on hold, with scaffoldings and crane posts in place. The construction industry appears to be the Achilles heel of China's booming economy in the same way that it is in other parts of the world. Apartment units and condos, like real estate, have drawn elders and young families' investments and are now holding assets that are not readily convertible to collateralize bank loans.

One of the awakenings in this trip is the realization that Manchuria already industrialized in the last century due to Russya's trans-Siberian presence and Japan's occupation of the region. Harbin in

Estrakadan Dos Higante

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

'Nai mumu i dos higante, man-tiniges todú i chaguan gi sanpapa'. Estague' masusede gi entalo gobietno yan segundoña ni oppan gi mapos na semana. I mananaña para uma'ataha i estrakada ni unu gaige. Ni unu malago mana' kahaga' 'sino pinalai ni lamog finikadan man-tostus ginen i kimason.

Petsonatmente, dinanche disision segundu gobietno gi disposision probleman depattamenton polisia. Dañkulu lokue na kuestion doku' hafa na ti siña i gobietno ha onra disision i sigundoña.

Ala kuenta, tutuhon matchan destrosiun ginen halom i masusede. Kulan pagpag dinamita gi talulu' gi halom salan familia.

Buente hokog ganasña mañethe publiku i gobietno. Piot sa' taya' fondu gi kahan iya Marianas. Kada ratu maditene pagamienton empleau siha. Para mona siempre u taya' pagamientu ya u tinatiye gi mana' fan bastan kantida na empleau. Este ti u mahñau ya siempre umasusede.

Este na asuntu i taya' salape gi kaha gaige esta gi ridondun man-mattit. Milagru ha nesessita, ahe ti gueku na esperansa. I linau yan pagyu megai para u tomba, i hinalom tasi megai lokue na destrosiun para u yamag gi santatte.

Megai familia u padese man-ma-amot ni gima' niha. Megai para u pinadese tinahoñg chiguan' para mantension familia. Lamegai man-gai famaguon guihe lagu u fan para man-eskuela un' ratu pot taya' salape scholarship. Megai lokue para u fan taichechu antes de u fattu mediu 2011 gi otrú sakan.

Mientras sige i estrakadan gobietno yan segundoña, duru lokue si Speaker Lang ha chaleguague gi sanhaya. Kada ilegña para u basta kumu kabesante, ha tulaika hinasoña. Lastima infresña pot EIC sa' lamegai mohon na familia siña man-inayuda. Lau ha disidi dumeskansan ñaihon mientras ha bahassu ñgaian talu 'nai para u basta.

Mampos abarambau kinalamntenta buente pot apenas fondu gi kahan iya Marianas. Entre ennau 'sino todú pumadedese tatkilu haga' ya megaiña besis 'nai hihot mahlog i hagian man-riseta. Esta kon-todu guahu ti hu tuñgu manu na halige mas asegauru. Todú man-gueku i hu falague na fina' katsu 'sino fanliheñg.

Lau mas hana' chatsaga hinasoghu i trabiha este pot pagyon

Heilongjiang became Moscow of the East, Heihe by the Amur became patronizingly Russian, and Changchun in Jilin, administrative center of *Manchukuo* and figureheaded by Pu Yi, the last Qing dynasty emperor (check Bertolucci's Academy Award winning movie, *The Last Emperor*), got Tokyo's inexhaustible capital and innovative talents in motor and train engines.

The fastest pre-WWII trains ran the Changchun-Dalian route through Mukden (now Shenyang). It is thus not a big surprise that before the Beijing-Shanghai route had its bullet train, a CHR was already plying the Harbin-Shanghai connection.

Southern Liaoning stirs from a two-week cold spell, with isolated patches of snow still on the leeward side of ditches, windbreakers, gulley and ravines. The ubiquitous coal-fired power plants with their glistening coal-stocked yards, towering smokestacks billowing with deceptive toxin bearing steam, and their pear-shaped ewer-like industrial chimneys, stand guard overlooking vast plains in places we've only read about in history books.

Two stand out There is Anshan's famous hot spring that the Southern Manchuria Railway company used to seduce the dilettante Pu Yi into a compliant monarch before the Kwantung Army dished him out to the world as minced sushi. Liaoyang, where we basked in one of its spas this year, is where company executives entertain their clients in the opulence of the "local's only" bath resorts. I discovered local rates to be considerably less than dues collected from foreigners, so I am learning how to keep my mouth shut and pass up as a local.

The Dalian Intercontinental is a block from the train station where the Victory Plaza's four-level basement shopping hocks Russian and Korean products. It is difficult to trust the brand names when a Rolex is marketed at less than \$100! But as we depicted the urban centers as one Great Mall of China, this section of Zhongshan

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



choda i yumiyilulog hit. Kuatdiba ya u sufa' hit i fette na linau 'sino hinalom tasi. Tat siempre ti uma'akalaye' gi troñkun siboyas ume'esirikotdias kulan tinala' magagu gi halom pagyu.

Yangin esta ti siña hu danche dibinan haane, mamokatyu pagu gi kanton tasi piot ya lamlam yan katma i hanom kontra i mapagahes gi sanlagu. Mañge na siñiente i katma yan pas na hanom ya ayu ha' 'nai guaha estotbu 'an dinidilalag i pegi' ni taraketiyon.

Lau este na finapos sakudidan siglu. Siempre u suha lokue gi kare mona. Siempre mas baba finaposta antes de u na'lu tatte i mauleg na tiempu. Kulan homhum antes de umanana. Na fan matatñga hamyu de hemunos de estrakada gi hegsu i Deni. Si Yuus Maase'!

■■■

Kada ratu hana' hassu-yu i presente na gera pot taya' salape gi kaha nu ayu na familia i man-mumu pot tres granon pugas ni mafa' alaguan gi halom kalahe. Satton man-aguatdia pot no i unu u sopla granon pugas. Guiya este na finapos i dañkulu na diskuidu gi tiemp-on abundansia. Kulan hapacha' ni duru ha fatta i edot ni brinabuña. 'Nai mattu i tiemp-on maneñgheñg, hihot matai ni ñalañgña mientras i edot chumochu dibuenamente sa' muna' sahñge mantension-ña. Ai de dios!

■■■

Hagas-yu poble. I modun linala' poble haga hayu-hu. Maseha pidason satdinas timates, nahoñgyu gi un' sentada. Yangin lañan sirasimi', kechap yan hinegsa', siñayu lokue kontentu sin bai' na kalaskas sekoshu. Manu i guaha kontentyu bumenefisia. Dipotsihe finapos todus i chatsaga na karera. Fan manayuyot ya in' fan mangagau ayudu ginen i Nanalibre pagu na haanen gupot siha. Si Yuus Maase'!

cess for a community and especially for us, the individual. It is never too late to begin the journey to better literacy. If you are too lazy to help yourself then accept your status in life and don't whine. It's up to you!

Earl Nightingale, one of the greatest motivators for self-improvement, states it succinctly: "Success as a human being in modern society does not come naturally. It requires the conscious utilization of ourselves—our talents and skills and a certain amount of time and free will."

Remember: One drop of education results in a pool of success!

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.

Road, with a gleaming geodesic sculpture at the roundabout, only a few blocks from the magnificent *Renmin Guang Chang* (people's government center), testifies that the common label "Hong Kong of the north" does not do justice to the beauty and elegance of this city.

The underground warren of shops lured us to do *Xiaoping* or *Zhou peng*. I made up these "shopping" words in honor of two wonderful ladies who once crossed our familiarity, Xiao being a miser, and Zhou a spendthrift!

See A DALIAN on Page 13

Letter to the Editor

Continental Air Micronesia: Born on Saipan and the TT

Continental Airlines (now swallowed by United Airlines) has not only abandoned Saipan but makes no pretense about wanting all passengers to route through their hub in Guam rather than transit directly from Asian source countries to the CNMI or anywhere else in Micronesia.

Continental Air Micronesian aka "Air Mike" was not always this way. They got their Micronesian Route established here on Saipan during the TT days of the 1960's and early 70's by promising to provide ongoing service and getting the support of Saipan and the building of the Continental Hotel (now the Hyatt) and other islands in Micronesia, such as the Palau Continental, the Chuuk Continental and Guam Continental to get the route.** Now, they oppose any and all attempts to bring in other airlines to service the region even though the greed-based execs at Continental refuse to do so themselves. The service they provide the CNMI via Cape Air has deteriorated so badly that visitors traveling to Rota are forced to divert through Guam and the planes have come to be called "flying sauna boxes" due to the hot, cramped and below standard conditions passengers are subjected to.

We must stand firm and protest the protesters. We must ask our Washington Delegate to lobby the US DOT, which doles out air routes to those who have connections and contribute to the right PACs, to instead give fairness a shake and allow direct air access to any and all comers. It is a public necessity. Saipan, Tinian and Rota need the availability of the low cost carriers and also the branded flag carriers bringing visitors from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Russia, Australia and of course our major markets of Japan and Korea.

Competition drives prices down and seat availability up. \$250 round trip to the CNMI from Guam? Ridiculous. You can fly across USA for thousands of miles for that airfare. You can fly several hundred miles in 'commuter' style flights for well under a hundred bucks. But Continental wants to keep any and all competition out of the Micronesian marketplace so they can control prices here. We are their biggest percentage profit center. And why not, they can stick it to us because they control a virtual monopoly.

When the competition wants to expand as is the case with Fly Micronesia growing out of the current Freedom Air using capital and expertise from Asia, Continental wants to crush it. Grudgingly they service Saipan by allowing Cape Air to use their licensed route, (for a fat fee), but at the heart of it all Continental is no friend of the CNMI. Fine, let's just break away and negotiate our own air seat capability with free and open skies. You know the American way — competition.

I hope this will be read by the regulators back in Washington so they can see how bad this has become and take action on our behalf. They can apply solutions that will help fill the Department of Defense's new needs as they build up force strength here in the Marianas. Those changes will help the traveling public as well as our men in uniform. Please help us achieve 'Open Skies' DoD, Dept. of State and DOI.

Rep. Stanley McGinnis Torres
17th CNMI Legislature

LITERACY

From Page 10






ing our ourselves is: "I don't have the time." We are too busy doing something else. The other excuse is that we don't enjoy reading therefore we cannot improve ourselves. How about listening to cassette tapes or CD's to learn? There is a tremendous library of self-improvement material waiting for you to use in the privacy of your home.

Literacy is one of the most important weapons to economic suc-

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼78
Palau	Rain	▲88 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87 ▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲83 ▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲84 ▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼75

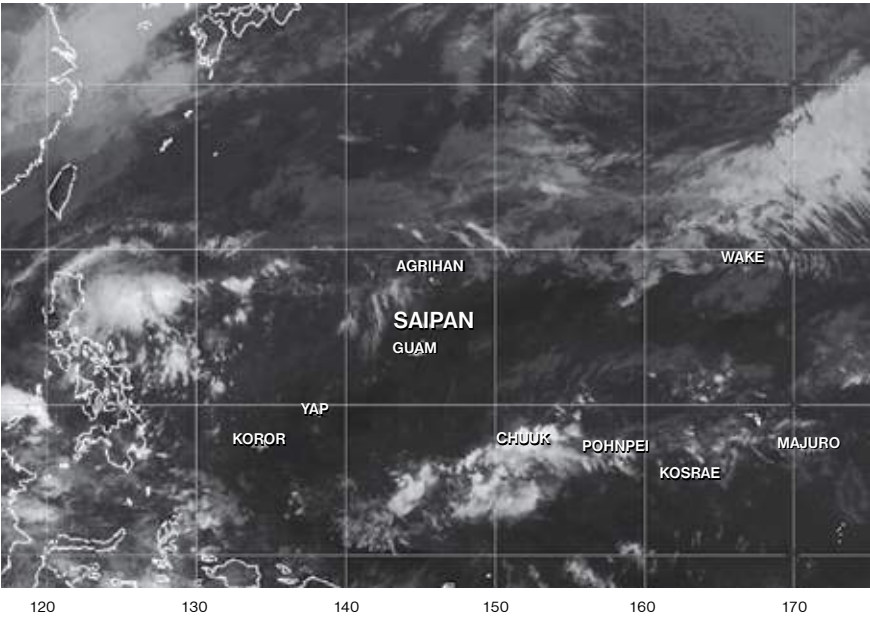
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲72 ▼62
Beijing	Sunny	▲33 ▼12
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲78 ▼58
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81 ▼70
London	Mostly Sunny	▲36 ▼31
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲76 ▼50
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲80 ▼54
Miami	Windy	▲63 ▼39
New York	Ice	▲38 ▼20
Osaka	Showers	▲58 ▼46
Paris	Sunny	▲32 ▼28
Pusan	Showers	▲56 ▼34
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲48 ▼35
Salem	Showers	▲52 ▼48
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67 ▼55
Seoul	Sunny	▲39 ▼18
Tokyo	Showers	▲57 ▼48
Washington, DC	Windy	▲32 ▼22

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
6:29 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet	
1:30 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
8:18 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front stretches westward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N170E to Minami Tori Shima then continues west-southwestward as a shear line to beyond 17N to 130E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found over Minami Tori Shima along and up to 120 miles north of the cold front from 23N160E to 25N170 elsewhere. Scattered light showers are found north of the Marianas along and up to 80 miles north of the boundary. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Chuuk within 130 miles of a line from 3N144E to 7N154E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Tuesday	6:34 AM	5:49 PM
Wednesday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Thursday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Friday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:51 AM	
Tuesday	12:25 PM	12:10 AM
Wednesday	1:01 PM	12:56 AM
Thursday	1:39 PM	1:44 AM
Friday	2:19 PM	2:33 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- **ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- **BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- **SAMUT SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- **TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily	DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/605	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09317/891	2:45am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	7:55am	8:25pm	Daily via NRT
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:40pm	6 via GUM	OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/C0596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ606/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 5, 7 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00am	1 via ICN	OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ606/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
				FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
				FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
				FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

O P I N I O N

The missing Nobel laureate

By **RENEE XIA**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Ninety-one Nobel Peace Prizes have been awarded since 1901. On Friday, at the Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo, there was an empty chair.

This year's recipient, Liu Xiaobo, the Chinese writer and dissident currently serving 11 years in prison for supporting the pro-democracy and human rights manifesto Charter 08, was not there to receive the honor. Nor was his wife or any other relatives or close friends, as they have been placed under house arrest or police surveillance, or barred from traveling abroad.

The empty chair spoke volumes about the deteriorating human rights conditions in China, a rising economic and political power unchecked by democratic balances. It also spoke of the tremendous sacrifices that Chinese human rights and pro-democracy activists have made, and the urgent need to support their struggle for justice and human rights for those living in China, and for upholding universal values.

Since the Nobel was announced Oct. 8, police across China have been intimidating and penalizing anyone who tries to celebrate or spread the good news. Liu's wife, Liu Xia, was last heard from on Twitter on Oct. 18. Authorities warned Liu Xiaobo's father and brothers to stay silent. Several of Liu's friends and associates in Beijing are guarded around the clock by police. Border control authorities barred his lawyer, Mo Shaoping, and outspoken Beijing University professor He Weifang from traveling to London for a seminar, for fear they would go to Oslo.

Dozens of other friends or supporters of Liu, including the economist Mao Yushi and the artist Ai Weiwei, also have been stopped from leaving the country for conferences. At least 100 activists have been visited by police and threatened with severe consequences for speaking to the media about the prize. Several supporters of Liu and signatories of Charter 08 have been detained or sent to "re-education through labor" camps on trumped-up charges.

This campaign of intimidation and retaliation makes it evident that the Nobel Committee made a wise and courageous decision to award the Peace Prize

to Liu, one of thousands of prisoners of conscience in China.

Chinese leaders have outdone Myanmar's military junta and even Hitler's Nazi Germany in their efforts to snub the Nobel Peace Prize and retaliate against the recipient. When Burmese democratic opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi won the Peace Prize in 1991 while she was under house arrest, her son made the acceptance speech at the ceremony. When Carl von Ossietzky, the German pacifist journalist, won in 1935 while imprisoned in a concentration camp, Nazi Germany declared that Ossietzky was free to go to Norway to accept the prize, while refusing him a passport. The Chinese government is handing out a competing Confucius Peace Prize.

Over the last decade, the Chinese government has invested heavily in soft diplomacy and image beautification projects, such as the 2008 Beijing Olympics and this year's Shanghai Expo. But international opinion will not look kindly on a government that jails its first Nobel Peace Prize winner. Keeping Liu in prison provides a platform for international mobilization to end rights abuses in China, and will continue to shame the government for its failures to honor its international treaty obligations to respect human rights.

Beijing puts out the Confucius prize to boost its claims that rights and freedoms are Western ideas, and that "stability" and prosperity are more desirable to the Chinese people. On the world stage, China appears as a confident and powerful player. Yet at home, the government is nervous about losing control, terrified that the people will find

their own voice. Liu Xiaobo has articulated their voice. By silencing him, the government is silencing the voice of conscience. It is not the silenced Chinese people but the government that rejects the universal values of human rights and democracy.

President Obama, the recipient of last year's Nobel Peace Prize, has a special responsibility to advocate for the freedom of fellow laureate Liu. Obama should take this opportunity to speak publicly about China's worsening human rights conditions. He should ask Chinese President Hu Jintao to free Liu. Indeed, Obama has a solemn responsibility to speak for the Chinese citizens who cannot, to give substance to the words in his acceptance speech in Oslo a year ago: "Peace is unstable where citizens are denied the right to speak freely or worship as they please, choose their own leaders or assemble without fear."

Despite Beijing's information blackout on the prize ceremony, many of China's 420 million netizens found ways to watch the ceremony and spread the word online. Chinese authorities may have succeeded in keeping Liu, his wife and invited guests from China away from the Nobel ceremony. But they cannot prevent the ideas and values that Liu has spent his life promoting from traveling across national borders and China's great Internet firewall.

Renee Xia is international director of the Network of Chinese Human Rights Defenders, which documents human rights abuses in China. This article was written for the Los Angeles Times.

Letter to the Editor

Politics as usual at NMC

It appears that politricks is alive and well at NMC. The board decided to re-open the position of president after months and months of recruitment efforts. Why was Villegas not selected? Did he not meet the qualification requirements or did he not have the proper connections with Fitial or relatives of the Board of Regents? Was he not political enough for NMC? NMC's HR has a tendency to continue this practice of re-announcing positions after they have been long closed and interviews were

conducted with qualified candidates. I bet if Villegas had the last name Peter or Rabauliman he would have gotten the job. I bet if he swore his allegiance to Fitial's causes he would have been hired. The longer NMC does not have a non-political president, the higher the chances are of them losing accreditation. That would be the last thing the CNMI needs. LET IT BE FOR FOUR MORE YEARS!

Ton Aldan
Kagman, Saipan

that the tacky four-story townhouses around the Dalian airport look too similar to the environs of South San Francisco. The city's cosmopolitan ambience, were our living prospects rosier, would draw us to consider resettling by Bohai's year-round warm waters.

With the concluded Cancun Conference after the Tianjin Talks on climate change faring better than the Copenhagen

Accord, we descend into the Incheon International Airport on a cold and crisp multi-layer clothing day, skirting the North Korea airspace away from Yeonpyeong on a 90-degree turn to be welcomed by *Hanguk Koryo*, South Korea's own carbon-laced steam belching industrial smokestacks spewing in the horizon. It really is clear: *we all live downwind*. In a sense, I need not go back home; I never left!

L O C A L

House GOPs block \$250 COLA checks for seniors and veterans

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives voted down a bill to provide another \$250 payment to Social Security recipients and disabled veterans. The payment is meant to replace a lost cost-of-living increase for 2011.

"I find it unconscionable that Republicans are blocking a little bit of help—\$250—for seniors and for men and women who risked their lives for our country, and at the same time Republicans are demanding a \$700 billion tax break for the wealthy, millionaires and billionaires," said CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan after the vote.

A total of 141 Republicans voted against H.R. 5987, the Seniors Protection Act, which

would have given seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities who receive Social Security a one-time \$250 payment in 2011. The Social Security Administration recently announced there would be no annual cost-of-living increase this year because the national inflation rate is low.

"It's hard for my constituents, seeing gas prices shoot through the roof and other basic goods getting more and more expensive, to believe that they don't need a cost-of-living increase," Sablan said. "And it's hard for my constituents to believe this country can't afford to help those who need help the most, when they see billion of dollars of tax benefits going to those who

have the most."

In 2010, there was also no cost-of-living increase for Social Security recipients. But the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided a \$250 check. About 2,500 people in the Northern Marianas got the payment.

"Not only is that money good for seniors and others on fixed incomes. It's also good for our economy. Because those who only have a little have to spend what they have to pay for their day-to-day expenses," said Sablan. "Those \$250 checks are not going into savings accounts. That money is being spent for gas and food and medicine."

Sablan is an original cosponsor of the Seniors Protection Act. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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INVITATION FOR BID NMHC IFB 2010-012 - AMENDMENT #1

INVITATION FOR BID
NMHC IFB 2010-012 - AMENDMENT #01

This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **SINAPALO CHILDREN'S PARK REVITALIZATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**, in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning **Monday, November 22, 2010**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Field Office in Songsong Village, Rota, during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. Inquiries may be directed to Ms. Jocelyn S. Kaipat, Office Manager, at telephone numbers. (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours or Mr. Mark Manglona, Rota Field Office Representative, at (670) 532-9410. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the Labor Standard Provisions for Wage Rate Determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$4.55 per hour as established by Federal law or the U. S. Department of Labor General Decision No. CM100001 03/12/2010 CM1 superseded General Decision No. CM2008-0001, whichever is greater.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 30, 2010**, at the proposed project site located in Sinapalo, Rota, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director of the NMHC, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or faxed to (670) 322-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time, Wednesday, December 1, 2010.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-IFB 2010-012**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time **Wednesday, December 29, 2010**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time, **Wednesday, December 29, 2010**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Wednesday, December 29, 2010**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **Wednesday, January 5, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **10:00 a.m.**, local time, **Thursday, January 6, 2011**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m.**, local time on **Wednesday, December 29, 2010**.

A bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Bid bonds must be certified by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred fifty (150) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Two Hundred Dollars (US\$200.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/S/Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/S/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply



NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

A DALIAN

From Page 11

Were one to inquire whether we would report any racy "dalliance," I'll go with my editor who is wont to reply, *Ano ka, binu buenas?* ("Why, you feeling lucky?") Alas, we would not hesitate a little braggadocio were not our innocence too regrettably real. We would report, though,

Business

Madoff's eldest son hangs himself in NYC apartment

NEW YORK (AP)—Every day for two years, he carried the toxic burden of a name that meant fraud to the world. On Saturday, the eldest son of disgraced financier Bernard Madoff hanged himself in his Manhattan apartment, another casualty in the saga that sent his father to prison and swindled thousands of their life savings.

On the second anniversary of the day his father was arrested in the worst investment fraud in American history, Mark Madoff, 46, was found dead in the living room of his SoHo loft. He was hanging from a black dog leash while his 2-year-old

son slept nearby.

People close to him said he was despondent over press coverage of his father's case, an ongoing criminal investigation of Madoff family members in the multibillion-dollar scheme and his struggle to rebuild his life.

The intense scrutiny approaching the anniversary "became too much for him," said a person who had recent contact with him, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case.

Mark Madoff's wife, Stephanie, sent her stepfather to the couple's \$6 million dollar apart-



Madoff



Medical examiner staff remove the body of Mark Madoff from the apartment building in which he lived, Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010 in the Soho neighborhood of New York.

ment after he e-mailed her at Disney World in Florida, where she was vacationing with their 4-year-old daughter. In the messages, he told her he loved her and that someone should check on their 2-year-old child, Nicholas, police said. He left no suicide note.

The person who had recent contact with Madoff said he was struggling to find steady employment and was upset by coverage of his father's case, including a slew of stories in the past week about investor lawsuits.

"Mark Madoff took his own life today. This is a terrible and unnecessary tragedy," his attorney, Martin Flumenbaum said in a written statement. "Mark

was an innocent victim of his father's monstrous crime who succumbed to two years of unrelenting pressure from false accusations and innuendo."

Mark Madoff and his brother Andrew, who notified authorities their father had confessed to them the day before he was arrested on Dec. 11, 2008, have said they were unaware of his crimes. But they have remained under investigation and been named in the multiple civil lawsuits accusing them of profiting from the scheme.

Another law enforcement official said Saturday that Madoff's arrest was not imminent, and that investigators pursuing possible charges against him, his brother and uncle hadn't contacted him for more than a year. The official wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the case and spoke on condition of anonymity.

A lawyer for Mark's mother, Ruth Madoff, said, "She's heartbroken." The lawyer, Peter Chavkin, had no further comment.

Bernard Madoff, 72, swindled a long list of investors out of billions of dollars. He admitted that he ran his scheme for at least two decades, cheating thousands of individuals, charities, celebrities and institutional investors. Losses are estimated at around \$20 billion, making it the biggest investment fraud in U.S. history. He is serving a 150-year prison term in North Carolina.

The scandal has resulted in a half dozen arrests of Madoff associates and put a harsh light on members of the family, which has splintered since Madoff's arrest. Both brothers hadn't spoken to their parents since they turned their father in.

The financier's brother, Peter, played a prominent role in the family's company. Mark and Andrew Madoff both worked on a trading desk at the firm, on a side of the business that wasn't directly involved in the Ponzi scheme.

In February, Mark Madoff's wife asked a court to change her last name and the last names of their two children to Morgan, saying her family had gotten threats and was humiliated by the scandal.

A year ago, the court-appointed trustee trying to unravel Bernard Madoff's financial affairs sued several relatives, including sons Mark and Andrew and Madoff's brother, Peter, accusing them of failing to detect the fraud while living lavish lifestyles financed with the family's ill-gotten fortune.

The lawsuit accused Mark Madoff of using \$66 million he received improperly to buy luxury homes in New York City, Nantucket and Connecticut.



TAX CREDIT DONATION

Tasi Tours makes an educational tax credit donation to Whispering Palms School. Back row, from left to right, Ichiro Shirata, Tasi Tours assistant general manager; David Igitol, Tasi Tours general manager; and Tom Wiendle, principal of Whispering Palms School. Tasi Tours and PMT Saipan, a JTB group of companies, have donated a total of \$10,000 for school year 2010 to the following schools: GTC Elementary School; Grace Christian Academy; ChaCha Oceanview Junior High School; Kagman High School; Saipan Southern High School; Whispering Palms School; Mr. Carmel School, Marianas High School, and Saipan International School.



PMT Saipan makes an educational tax credit donation to Marianas High School. MHS students pose with Mr. Sunaga, assistant general manager for PMT Saipan, standing rear center, during the presentation of the ETC check.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

CALLER BOX 10007, SPRINGS PLAZA, PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN MP, 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

December 06, 2010

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. PAUPAU TOURS	11/16/10 SSm-2010-X-096	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(11/16/10)*
2. DTC SAIPAN	11/17/10 SSm-2010-X-097	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(11/17/10)*
3. SAIPAN WORLD RESORT	11/18/10 SLRm-2010-X-098	SEAWEED & SEAGRASS REMOVAL	SWIMMING ZONE FRONTING SAIPAN WORLD RESORT	LAGOON & REEF APC	APPROVED(11/29/10)*
4. CHALAN KANOA BEACH CLUB	11/18/10 SSm-2010-X-099	TREE TRIMMING	CHALAN KANOA BEACH CLUB	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(11/23/10)*
5. SAIPAN CREWBOATS, INC.	11/22/10 SPIm-2010-X-100/1	DRYDOCK CELTIC/CAJUN	SOUTH SEAPLANE RAMP	PORT & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED(11/23/10)*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,
vs.
LOUIS ANTHONY S. MANIBUSAN and JULIE ANN DUENAS, fka, JULIE ANN D. MANIBUSAN, Defendants.

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON MOTION FOR AN ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE and CONTEMPT OF COURT

Date: December 23, 2010
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: David A. Wiseman

TO: LOUIS ANTHONY S. MANIBUSAN

Please take notice that Plaintiff, Bank of Guam, has filed a Motion for an Order to Show Cause Re: Contempt/Declaration. This Motion for an Order to Show Cause, is based on Defendant's failure to make payments so that he should be held in contempt. The Court will hold a hearing on the motion on **December 23, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.** You may file any responsive pleading as you deem appropriate and provide copies thereof to Counsel for Plaintiff, Robert T. Torres, at the above address.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Nation

With Dream Act shelved, immigrants look to 2012

MIAMI (AP)—The illegal immigrants who more than a decade ago were just teens hoping to forge a legal path to citizenship are vowing to make the Dream Act a campaign issue come 2012, even though they'll likely be too old to benefit if the law ever passes.

The measure that passed in the House on Wednesday is unlikely to go anywhere in the Senate, and the House is unlikely to revisit the issue once the new

Republican leadership takes over. Groups like The National Council of La Raza and other Hispanic and immigrant advocacy groups know the prospects for comprehensive immigration reform are dim for the time being. So they've turned their attention to a measure that they believe will spark more sympathy from most Americans, bringing with them a coalition of labor groups, the Conference of Catholic Bishops and

even Defense Secretary Robert Gates. And come 2012, advocates say, Spanish-language media will be filled with ads slamming lawmakers who voted against the Dream Act.

"Many of us come from families with mixed (immigration) status. We can't vote, but our families and friends can," said Julieta Garibay, 29, one of the original "Dreamers" who has pushed for the Dream Act since it was first introduced in Con-

gress in 2001. "Our allies will remember who voted, and how they voted, and will hold them accountable in 2012."

The Dream Act would pro-

vide qualified people up to the age of 29 with a path to citizenship if they attend college or join the military, while mandating decades before they could

petition for family. An estimated 2.1 million immigrants could be eligible, though it's likely a far smaller number would meet the bill's requirements.

Police: Remains found believed to be missing girl

CITRONELLE, Ala. (AP)—Police said a search of woods next to a rural Alabama road on Saturday uncovered human remains that likely belong to a young girl whose father is charged with killing her and her brother.

Search teams found the skeletal remains about 40 feet from a county road in Citronelle, about 30 miles north of Mobile, Mobile Police Maj. Kara Rose said. They had only been searching the site for a half-hour.

Rose said investigators believe the remains belong to Natalie DeBlase, who would have turned 5 in late November. Skeletal remains found Wednesday in the woods of rural Mississippi are believed to belong to her 3-year-old brother, Chase.

John DeBlase, 27, is charged with two counts of felony mur-



In this undated photo provided by Richard DeBlase, Natalie, left, and Chase DeBlase are shown.

der and two counts of corpse abuse. DeBlase's parents have said the last time they saw the children was in February, when they found DeBlase living at a

mobile home park in Citronelle with his common-law wife, Heather Leavell-Keaton.

Police have said Leavell-Keaton also is responsible for the killings. She has been charged with child abuse but not murder. She was being extradited to Alabama and was expected to arrive there Sunday. DeBlase's court-appointed attorney, Jim Sears, has said DeBlase maintains that he is innocent and that Leavell-Keaton killed the children. She has blamed DeBlase for the children's deaths.

Attorneys for DeBlase have said he will plead not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect. Sears said Friday that comments made by friends that called into question DeBlase's mental health are "certainly not without reason."

Elizabeth Edwards remembered for her wit, resolve

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Family and friends of Elizabeth Edwards recalled her Saturday as an idealistic law student who challenged professors, a political sage who offered advice at every turn and a matriarch who comforted her family even as she was dying of breast cancer.

Edwards' funeral drew hundreds to Edenton Street United Methodist Church, where she once mourned her 16-year-old son, Wade, after he died in a car crash in 1996. She was to be buried next to him during a private ceremony.

Speakers reflected on a multi-

faceted personality: Edwards, 61, was an intellectual who frequented discount clothing stores like T.J. Maxx, she was a fiery competitor, and she was a public figure who won the private confidence of virtually everyone she met.

"There aren't words that are good enough," said daughter Cate Edwards, whose eulogy contained a passage from a letter her mother spent years preparing to leave to her children after she was gone.

"I've loved you in the best ways I've known how," the letter said. "All I ever really needed was you, your love,

your presence, to make my life complete."

John Edwards, her estranged husband, did not speak. The couple had four children together. John Edwards sat alongside 28-year-old Cate, 12-year-old Emma Claire and 10-year-old Jack. They held hands as they followed the casket into the sanctuary.

Their oldest daughter talked of how her mother comforted those around her as she lay dying—at one point barely able to speak—while she held her daughter and John's hands, looking back and forth to each, repeating, "I'm OK. I'm OK."

'Strippmobile' delivers Christmas donations

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The "strippmobile" has made another run in Las Vegas, this time with properly dressed Santa's helpers riding for a good cause.

A year after agreeing to stop a promotion that involved hauling bikini-clad exotic dancers in a truck with clear plastic sides, a company that owns several Las Vegas strip clubs used the vehicle to help deliver Christmas donations to a local charity.

Deja Vu's truck was part of a convoy that delivered \$19,000 in donated bikes and toys Friday to HELP of Southern Nevada, a nonprofit group that assists the

poor, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

Inside the large Plexiglas cubicle were a bearded St. Nick and eight female entertainers who wore long red dresses or Santa-style camisole dresses paired with leggings.

There was no gyrating or pole dancing this time.

In November 2009, Deja Vu parked the truck after local officials and residents complained its use of live strippers was unseemly and unsafe. But Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman said he had no problem with the strippmobile carrying a Santa

and appropriately dressed women through the city.

"As far as I'm concerned, we are an adult playground and we're going to be an adult wonderland," he told the Review-Journal.

A HELP executive said her agency was comfortable taking donated toys from a strip club. Deja Vu collected the donations from patrons and employees.

"They are a legal, licensed business in our community," said Fuijala Riley, HELP's chief operations officer. "Their employees are part of our community, and they have children, too."



20 INCHES OF SNOW

Melissa Marolf walks her dog Nash on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010 in Sauk Rapids, Minn. A powerful snowstorm socked the upper Midwest on Saturday with as much as 20 inches of snow, forcing authorities to close state roads across five states as heavy winds made for treacherous driving conditions. The snowstorm was expected to be followed by dangerous cold. North Dakota experienced wind chills of 20 degrees below zero, and the arctic air was expected to drop temperatures below zero by Sunday night throughout the Dakotas and in parts of Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building • P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CUC-RFP-11-009

Loan Servicing and Customer Account Financing

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to provide loan servicing and customer account financing for Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Scope-of-Work may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-009, Loan Servicing and Customer Account Financing" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM, (CHST) local time on **December 21, 2010**. Late submission will not be considered.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

Offerors will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (CHST) local time on December 14, 2010 to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net; Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications, only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the sol

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Asia

Wanted Indon terror suspect captured

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian police arrested one of the country's most-wanted Muslim militants Friday, accusing him of plotting high-profile assassinations and bloody attacks on foreigners at luxury hotels in the capital.

Abu Tholut was captured without a fight during a pre-dawn raid on a home in Central Java province, said Lt. Col. Djihartono, a police spokesman, adding a handgun and several rounds of ammunition were also seized.

The 42-year-old suspect was to be flown to Jakarta later Friday, he said. Indonesia, a predominantly Muslim nation of 240 million, has battled extremists since 2002, when members



MUSTOFA ALIAS
ABU THOLUT

In this undated photo released by Indonesian National Police shows terrorist suspect Abu Tholut.

of the al-Qaida-linked network Jemaah Islamiyah bombed two nightclubs on the resort island

of Bali, killing 202 people, most of them foreign tourists.

Members of a violent offshoot of the group have continued to carry out near-annual strikes on embassies, beach-side restaurants and glitzy hotels since then, killing more than 60.

Tholut, also known as Mustofa, became one of the country's most wanted fugitives after master bombmakers Noordin M. Top and Dulmatin were gunned down earlier this year in a series of police raids.

Tholut was convicted for involvement in a 2001 bomb blast at a shopping plaza in central Jakarta that wounded six, but released five years later for good behavior.

PH skipped Nobel over China death verdict

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Benigno Aquino III said the Philippines did not send a representative to the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony honoring a jailed Chinese dissident because of his efforts to spare Filipinos on death row in China.



Aquino

Aquino said in an interview published in the Philippine Sun-

day Inquirer that his envoy's absence at the ceremony in Norway on Friday did not mean his government is not championing democracy and human rights.

"Our interest (is) to advance our citizens' needs first," he told the newspaper in his first comments since human rights activists criticized the Philippines' decision to boycott Friday's ceremony with China and 16 other countries.

China was outraged at the award for democracy advocate Liu Xiaobo, demonizing him in state media and portraying the Nobel as a Western propaganda tool to undermine China. It sought to persuade and pressure other countries to not attend the ceremony, and nearly all the boycotters were close China allies and trading partners.

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ASIAN BRIEFS

China censors Nobel ceremony honoring dissident

BEIJING (AP)—China repeated its claim Saturday that the world is meddling in its affairs after the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded in absentia to imprisoned democracy activist Liu Xiaobo. The ceremony was censored in China, which has seen a clampdown on dissidents and some news websites blocked in recent days. "We oppose anyone making an issue of this matter, and oppose anyone interfering in China's internal affairs in any way," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said in a statement posted early Saturday on the ministry's website. Liu won the prize for his work calling for sweeping changes to Beijing's one-party communist political system. As the BBC and CNN switched to live coverage of Friday's ceremony in Oslo, the channels went dark in China.

Myanmar's Suu Kyi, US official discuss sanctions

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A senior U.S. official and democracy advocate Aung San Suu Kyi discussed sanctions against Myanmar's military government Friday as Washington considers whether to ease the country's isolation. Last year, President Barack Obama said that since decades of sanctions had failed to bring about change in Myanmar, perhaps dialogue would be more fruitful. Suu Kyi also suggested last year she might be open to an easing of the measures, which she has long supported. However, after a recent election that was widely criticized as a sham, both the U.S. and the democracy advocate may be reconsidering their positions. Joseph Y. Yun, deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, said the meeting Friday with Suu Kyi at her lakeside home was "very productive."

Report: Gates to visit China next month

BEIJING (AP)—China says U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates will visit next month as the two militaries exchange high-level visits to boost communication following recent tensions. The

state-run Xinhua News Agency on Saturday cited a China military spokesman as saying Gates will visit Jan. 10-14. The report said Chen Bingde, chief of the general staff of the People's Liberation Army, will visit the United States next year at "a mutually convenient date." Gates had planned to travel to China during an Asia visit earlier in the year but China declined to officially invite him at that time, when relations were strained over recent U.S. sales of defense items to self-ruled Taiwan, which China considers part of its territory.

NKorea sends top diplomat to Russia amid tensions

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea warned Saturday that it is ready for an all-out war even as it dispatched its top diplomat to Russia amid a flurry of regional diplomatic efforts to defuse tensions over the North's deadly artillery attack on South Korea. North Korean Foreign Minister Pak Ui Chun left for Russia, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said in a one-sentence report. No details were given, but Pak accused South Korea and the United States on Friday of pursuing a policy of hostility and confrontation and reiterated that North Korea needs its nuclear program to fend them off.

Violence rises ahead of US review of Afghan war

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A NATO airstrike killed at least 25 suspected insurgents in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, while violence elsewhere left 22 civilians dead in a wave of attacks days before the White House issues a review of U.S. war strategy, officials said. A NATO force on patrol called for air support after coming under threat from insurgents in the Nari district of Kunar province, which has been the scene of heavy fighting along the Pakistani border. NATO said more than 25 militants were killed in the airstrike. The coalition said another NATO unit in the Dara Pech district of Kunar killed an unspecified number of insurgents after coming under fire from small arms and rocket-propelled grenades.

World

Stockholm blasts kill 1, hurt 2

STOCKHOLM (AP)—A car explosion and what appeared to be a suicide attack injured two people, killed the apparent bomber, and caused panic among Christmas shoppers in Stockholm Saturday.

Stockholm Police spokeswoman Petra Sjolander said a car exploded near Drottninggatan, a busy shopping street in the center of the city. Shortly afterward, a second explosion was heard higher up on the same street, and a man was found injured on the ground.

He was later pronounced dead.

Sjolander said it was unclear what caused the second explosion and whether the two blasts were linked, but said a police bomb squad has been sent to the site.

Ten minutes before the blasts, Swedish news agency TT received an e-mail saying "the time has come to take action."

According to the news agency, the e-mail referred to Sweden's silence surrounding artist Lars Vilks' drawing of Muhammad as a dog and its

soldiers in Afghanistan.

"Now your children, daughters and sisters shall die like our brothers and sisters and children are dying," the news agency quoted the e-mail as saying.

Police said they were aware of the e-mail, which had also been addressed to Sweden's security police, but couldn't immediately confirm a link to the explosions.

Two people were taken to the hospital with light injuries. It was not immediately clear in which explosion they were hurt.

Gunbattle kills 11 in western Mexican town

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A gunbattle between rival gangs killed 11 people during a Virgin of Guadalupe celebration in a western Mexican town, authorities said Saturday.

Armed men arrived in three cars and opened fire on another group of gunmen in the main plaza of Tecalitlan just as a crowd was gathering Friday night, the Jalisco state attorney general's office said in a

statement. One of the gunmen hurled a grenade.

Eight men were killed at the scene and two others died at a hospital, the office said.

Another man, the brother of one of those killed in the plaza, was found shot to death next to a car on the highway just outside the small town, the statement said.

Inside the car, which had been reported stolen, authori-

ties found two banners. One read: "We haven't come to kill innocent people. We've come for El Zopilote." The other said: "We do not charge quotas."

Photographs of the aftermath showed overturned chairs in front of a stage where a mariachi band was set to play. A large image of the Virgin of Guadalupe loomed over the scene.

Knox makes emotional address in Italy appeal

PERUGIA, Italy (AP)—Convicted murderer Amanda Knox broke into tears Saturday as she made an emotional address to an appeals court in Italy, saying she was the innocent victim of an "enormous mistake" and that her life had been "broken" by three years in jail.

In her address to the court, the 23-year-old American reached out for the first time to the family of Meredith Kercher, the British girl she was convicted of killing and sexually assaulting in 2007 when they were roommates on a student exchange program in Perugia.

Knox denied being the "dangerous, diabolical, jealous, uncaring, violent" person described by the prosecution.

Last year, Knox was convicted and sentenced to 26 years in prison. Also convicted of the same charges was Raffaele Sollecito, an Italian who is Knox's former boyfriend.



AP

Amanda Knox is escorted by a penitentiary guard as she arrives for a hearing in her appeals trial, at Perugia's courthouse, Italy, Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010.

He was sentenced to 25 years in prison. Both deny wrongdoing, and have appealed the verdict.

The appeals trial formally opened last month but that hearing was immediately adjourned. With Saturday's hearing, the new proceedings

got into full swing. "I am innocent. Raffaele is innocent. We did not kill Meredith," Knox said during her 20-minute address, speaking Italian, and her voice breaking. "It doesn't do justice to Meredith and her loved ones to take our lives from us."

Silence fell on the courtroom as Knox started speaking, with her stepfather Chris Mellas and her university friend Madison Paxton in attendance. Paxton, who was crying during her friend's speech, said later she had never been "so proud of anybody in my life."

Knox had addressed the court in the previous trial but never for as long or as passionately. She said she regretted not being able to fully speak her mind before, saying that words don't come easily to her and that she has a difficult time standing up for herself.

UN climate meeting OKs Green Fund in new accord

CANCUN, Mexico (AP)—A U.N. conference on Saturday adopted a modest climate deal creating a fund to help the developing world go green, though it deferred for another year the tough work of carving out deeper reductions in carbon emissions causing Earth to steadily warm.

Though the accords were limited, it was the first time in three years the 193-nation conference adopted any climate action, restoring faith in

the unwieldy U.N. process after the letdown a year ago at a much-anticipated summit in Copenhagen.

The Cancun Agreements created institutions for delivering technology and funding to poorer countries, though they did not say where the funding would come from.

In urging industrial countries to move faster on emissions cuts, it noted that scientists recommended reducing greenhouse gas emissions

from industrial countries by 25 to 40 per cent from 1990 levels within the next 10 years. Current pledges amount to about 16 percent.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon, in a 4 a.m. speech, declared the conference "a thoroughgoing success," after two separate agreements were passed. The agreements shattered "the inertia of mistrust" that had settled over the frustrated efforts for a broad climate treaty, he said.

Health & fitness

Life expectancy slips, stroke dips to No. 4 killer

By STEPHANIE NANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. life expectancy has dropped slightly—by about a month—after mostly inching up for many years, the government reported Thursday.

The preliminary report indicates that a baby born in 2008 can expect to live to 77.8 years if current trends continue. That's down a bit from an all-time high of 77.9 years for 2007. A similar dip occurred in 2005, and life expectancy also dropped in 1993.

The lead author of the report, Arialdi Minino, called the 2008 change minuscule and said it would take years of data to determine if that's a trend.

Life expectancy was down for both men and women. The gap between blacks and whites closed a little, to a 4.6-year difference in life expectancy; black men for the first time topped 70 years. Overall, women continue to live longer, until about 80, compared to 75 for men.

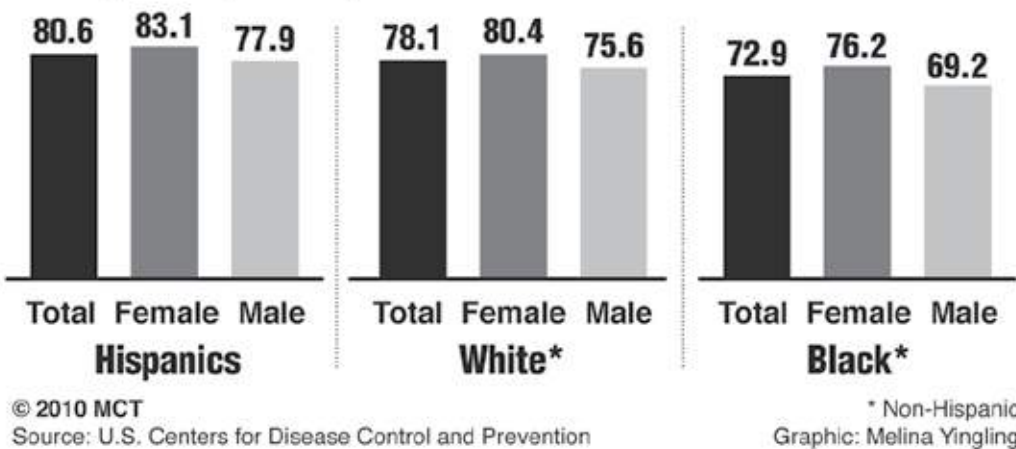
What's behind the slip in overall life expectancy isn't known.

"It's something to keep our

Living longer

A Hispanic born in 2006 could expect to live about 80 years and seven months, longer than whites or blacks.

Life expectancy at birth, 2006



eyes on," said Ken Thorpe, a health policy professor at Emory University in Atlanta. He suggested it could be related to rising obesity rates.

The report was released Thursday by the National Center for Health Statistics, which is part of the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention in Atlanta. It's based on nearly all the death certificates for that year; a final report will be issued later.

"2008 was not much different from 2007," said Minino. "Once you look under the hood, and look at the trends and the causes, you do find differences. But over-

all, it wasn't that different."

Life expectancy figures for Hispanics have not been included in the annual reports

because of unreliable data. In October, the CDC released its first-ever calculation for Hispanics, which showed that those born in 2006 could expect to outlive whites by more than two years and blacks by more than seven.

In other highlights from the 2008 report:

■ Stroke fell from the No. 3 leading cause of death for the first time in five decades. It was surpassed by chronic

lower respiratory diseases, which include asthma, emphysema and chronic bronchitis. While the death rate from stroke dropped by 4 percent, the swap in position may be due in part to changes in the definition of the respiratory disease category, which increased 8 percent.

■ The age-adjusted death rate fell for the ninth year in a row, to a low of about 759 deaths

per 100,000 people. The number of deaths increased by more than 49,300 to about 2.5 million deaths in 2008.

■ Death rates declined for six of the 15 leading causes of death: heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, homicide and accidents. In addition to chronic lower respiratory diseases, death rates went up for Alzheimer's disease, flu and pneumonia, high blood pressure, suicide and kidney disease.

■ Heart disease and cancer continue to be the two top killers, accounting for about half of all deaths.

■ The infant mortality rate, which has been at about the same level for years, dropped about 2 percent to a record low of 6.59 deaths per 1,000 births. The rate for black infants is about twice that of whites. Birth defects, prematurity and low birthweight are the leading causes.

ON THE NET

■ Report: <http://www.cdc.gov/NCHS/>

Drug combo helps women with early breast cancer

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—New drug combinations are helping women with early breast cancer. Using two drugs that more precisely target tumors doubled the number of women whose cancer disappeared compared to those who had only one of the drugs, doctors reported Friday.

However, another study added to the controversy over Avastin for breast cancer. Most women who received the drug for a few months before surgery fared no better than those who did not, it found.

The studies were presented Friday at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium.

The good news study was the first test of Herceptin and Tykerb together for early-stage disease. They aim at a protein called HER-2 that is overproduced in about one-fourth of all breast cancers. Herceptin blocks the protein on the cell's surface; Tykerb does it inside the cell.

Dr. Jose Baselga, associate director of the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, led a study when he previously worked in Barcelona, Spain, that tested these drugs alone and in combination in 455 patients who also were given the chemotherapy drug paclitaxel.

The patients were treated for about four months before surgery to remove their tumors and for nine months afterward. Doctors have been testing drugs in advance of surgery to shrink tumors and make the operation

ON THE NET

■ Cancer conference: <http://www.sabcs.org>

less drastic, and to get an idea quickly if these drugs will help a patient.

Just over half of the women who received Herceptin and Tykerb were discovered to have no signs of invasive cancer when their surgeries were done, versus only 25 to 30 percent of those given just one of these drugs.

Tykerb had more side effects, mostly diarrhea. But the main side effect of combo treatment is to the wallet: Tykerb pills cost \$5,000 to \$6,000 per month. Herceptin costs more than \$4,000 a month plus whatever doctors charge to infuse it.

"The possibility that we have here is to enhance the number of patients that are cured" and avoid more treatment down the line that might cost more, Baselga said.

However, Dr. Neil Spector of the Duke Cancer Institute said cost "is a real consideration."

Yet he called the results "really exciting" and said the future of cancer care is approaches like this that use targeted drugs well matched to patients' tumor profiles.

British-based GlaxoSmith-Kline PLC makes Tykerb; California-based Genentech, now part of the Swiss company Roche, makes Herceptin. Glaxo helped pay for the study.

A second study in Germany pitted the two drugs against each other in 600 women with

early breast cancer also getting standard chemotherapy for six months before surgery. Herceptin won: 31 percent saw their tumors disappear versus 22 percent on Tykerb.

The Avastin study drew high interest because the Food and Drug Administration is considering revoking the drug's approval for breast cancer that has widely spread. Evidence suggests it does not meaningfully improve survival for advanced cases.

The new study tested it in more than 1,900 women with early breast cancer or large tumors that are not the type that Herceptin or Tykerb can help. All were given standard chemotherapy and half also got Avastin for several months before surgery. Tumors disappeared in nearly one in five women regardless of what treatment they got, said study leader Dr. Gunter von Minckwitz of the University of Frankfurt in Germany.

One group did benefit: women with "triple negative" cancers—those not fueled by estrogen, progesterone or the protein that Herceptin targets. In women with these hard-to-treat cancers, Avastin boosted by 40 percent the number whose tumors disappeared.

Four companies that make drugs used in the study paid for the research, and von Minckwitz has been a paid speaker for some of them.

Roche sells Avastin wholesale for \$7,700 a month, but infusion charges push the tab to as much as \$10,000.

Personal Trainer

Does exercise make a cold worse?

Most people have about six colds a year, and they go away whether the person exercises or not, but does exercise worsen them?

New research

50 moderately fit student volunteers were given equal doses of rhinovirus



The cold facts

- About 40% of colds are caused by germs called rhinoviruses
- Colds kept several athletes from performing well at the 1992 Winter Olympics



After 10 days No significant difference in cold symptoms between the two groups
Effect of heavy exercise on colds still not known

Recommendations

"Above-the-neck" cold
Moderate exercise is probably safe and won't make the cold worse

- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Scratchy throat

"Below-the-neck" cold: Avoid exercise until the illness has run its course

- Fever
- Sore muscles or joints
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Coughing with mucous

Source: Ball State University study, American College of Sports Medicine

© 2010 MCT Graphic: Paul Trap

Life & Style

TRAVELOGUE

A fascinating journey into Fiji's heart and soul

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

First of a two-part series

From dodging rain bullets on an exhilarating river safari to barefoot dancing and drinking kava with villagers, trekking sand dunes, and having a relaxing afternoon in a majestic mahogany forest, a vacation in Fiji is an antidote for workaholic fever.

Fiji, an ultimate holiday destination of 333 islands that are mostly uninhabited, is one of the most developed and interesting island nations in the South Pacific.

Despite the frenetic urban pulse in Nadi and Suva, Fiji maintains a natural beauty and well preserved cultural traditions—a source of fascination to hundreds of thousands of tourists every year, mostly from Australia and New Zealand.

'Bula!'

It's been said there are few places in the world where visitors are warmly welcomed as they are in Fiji, and there's good reason for the description. Everywhere you go, Fijians greet you with a hearty "Bula" ("hello" in Fijian language) or wave at you.

Fijian hospitality is much warmer than the island weather. What other island destinations have been preaching about tourism being "everybody's business" comes naturally to Fijians. It's hard to imagine that this is the same island nation rocked by military coups and political unrest years back.

Minutes after landing on Fiji's main island of Viti Levu where Ron and I spent Thanksgiving week, a group of Fijians in Bula shirts greeted arriving passengers with festive guitar songs. The reception at the airport made a great first impression on us as tourists on that lovely Tuesday morning.

Such a warm welcome made it all worth the long Continental Airlines flight (plus waiting time) from Saipan/Guam to our destination. Though the officer in the immigration counter looked as if he hasn't seen a Philippine passport in his whole life, I was able to clear the area much faster than I anticipated.

'Fiji's heart and soul'

Fiji is known for its turquoise waters, gorgeous palm-lined beaches, dazzling white sands, numerous island resorts such as those in the Mamanuca and Yasawa groups, beautiful warm weather, and a relaxed island atmosphere. But having lived



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Village men prepare for the kava ceremony, one of the central Fijian traditions that involves drinking from a shared bowl pounded pepper tree root mixed with fresh water.

on tropical islands for several years, Ron and I had other plans in mind that didn't include beach resorts.

Our eco-cultural journey took us to an incredible Sigatoka River safari, right into the heart and soul of Fiji as we explored the fertile Sigatoka Valley, and visited an authentic Fijian village on Thanksgiving.

A mini-coach picked us up from the hotel lobby, a ride shared with mostly Australian and New Zealander couples. It took us some 10 minutes to reach the town of Sigatoka, where we had a stopover.

When we boarded the mini-coach again, an Australian/New Zealander couple asked where I'm from. I said "Saipan," to which the guy said, "Is that in Vietnam?" Most times, they would ask Ron, who would proudly say he's from "the independent island nation of Hawaii." At one time, he was asked whether Hawaii is part of the United States.

We then set off on a 17-km scenic ride into the Sigatoka Valley. Just a few minutes into our trip, our driver/guide pointed to our left, at the newly installed wind turbines on top of the hill, and later showed us a joint Taiwan-Fiji



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

horticultural crops project. The asphalt/concrete road gave way to rough road littered with rocks, giving us a bumpy ride. But the beauty of the rolling green hills and the fertile lands of the Sigatoka Valley made us forget the road conditions. Sigatoka Valley is nicknamed "Salad Bowl of Fiji" because of its flat green fields of vegetables. We saw at least one village house with a satellite dish. "Must not miss rugby games," Ron quipped.

Now and then, the driver would give us anecdotes and stories about Fiji, including the vibrant mix of ethnic Fijian and Indo-Fijian. Regardless of the

different cultures and religions, though, some 80 percent of the entire population are part of rugby teams, he said. Rugby is such a phenomenon in Fiji.

Scenic ride up the river

Two jet boats were offloading their passengers from a morning tour when we got to the departure area. We were each provided a life jacket and given safety briefings. Our group, which had a tour chief named Merv, also included a family of four that was originally from Tonga but now lives in New Zealand.

When our boat captain, known as "High Jack," revved the purpose-built safari jet boat, we knew we're in for a magical ride. Beautiful mountains, cliffs, lush vegetation and farmlands imposed their majestic presence on us as we took the scenic ride up the longest river in Viti Levu. Everywhere we looked was green and fresh.

It was rainy that week, and the river was murky. Captain "High Jack" pointed to tree branches with river debris still hanging on to them to show us the water level during the most recent typhoon. We waved at villagers as we cruised past

their villages.

Captain "High Jack" shared the history of the area, including customs, legends, and cannibalism of centuries ago. The Sigatoka River safari is the only tour that visits a different village, from Monday to Saturday, so as not to encroach on villagers' traditional way of life. It also helps lessen the impact of mass tourism on their daily lives. Tourists thus get to see real villagers and real villages.

When the jet boat stopped at its destination, we were greeted by our village guide named Ori and his assistant. We walked quite a distance to reach the village called Naveyago. Before entering the village, Ori asked the women to wear the sulu or sarong that were given to us at the town to cover exposed arms and legs. We were told not to wear hats, sunglasses and revealing clothes as they indicate disrespect of the village chief and

village chiefs.

One by one, we're asked to introduce ourselves and all I could say was it took me seven years to visit Fiji and I was happy to finally make the trip. Much of what they were talking about was lost on us because the villagers were speaking in Fiji, chanting, and occasionally mentioning Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii, which I surmised was about giving their blessings to welcome us into their village. There I was—lost in reverie but I was in the moment. That magical moment of curiosity stopped the clock briefly.

Chief Merv was presented with the first bowl of kava, followed alternately by the villagers and the male visitors, then women. When we're presented with the kava bowl, we're supposed to drink all of it in one gulp, clap our hands three times, and say "vinaka" which is the Fijian phrase for "thank you."



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lush mountains and fertile farmlands impose their majestic presence on visitors as they take the Sigatoka River safari on Fiji's main island of Viti Levu.

the villagers.

'Lost in reverie'

Upon reaching a community hall, Ori told us about the traditional kava ceremony, a welcoming rite accorded to visiting dignitaries and guests. The drinking of kava, made from the root of a pepper tree pounded into a fine powder and then mixed with fresh water, is one of the central Fijian traditions.

We removed our shoes and left our belongings except for our cameras outside, before entering the community hall. The village chief and many of the men in the village were already waiting for us to come in. Chief Merv led the group, while the women had to wait until all the men entered the room. As part of their customs and traditions, men sat in front and the women sat at the back. Chief Merv presented the group's offering of kava which the male villagers mixed with water for the ceremony. In the past, kava was drunk only by

We left the community hall for a village tour. Ori brought us to the village church with its newly installed electrical wires and switches but power is not expected to reach the village soon. He shared with us how the villagers live their daily life, and answered all our questions.

It began to rain, just in time for us to enter another community hall (again, no shoes allowed inside), a bit larger than the first one. Here, most of the male villagers we met earlier were in a festive mood, playing the guitar, singing songs and drinking kava. In an adjacent room were the village's children, curious to see the visitors who just came in.

The village's men and women prepared a variety of fish, meat, chicken and vegetable dishes, as well as fresh fruits. What made the experience more authentic was that we ate the way villagers do—no tables and chairs.

To be continued tomorrow.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The village tour guide Ori, left, briefs the group consisting mostly of Australians and New Zealanders, about customs and traditions before entering Naveyago Village. To the right is the visitor group's chosen chief, Merv.

Ballet spectacular draws record crowd



PHOTOS BY CLARISSA V. DAVID

David Bucher, who plays the role of Drosselmeyer, holds the doll played by a young ballerina.



Russian ballet star Alexey Nasadovich tries to rescue Clara, played by Sakura Imai, from the Mouse King.



A ballerina in her winning form



Korean ballet star
Kim Hee Sun
during his perfor-
mance
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Alexey Nasadov-
ich of Russia as
Nutcracker and
Asami Takai of Ja-
pan as the Sugar
Plum Fairy
CLARISSA V. DAVID



Young ballerinas in their red costumes



Glusko's Academy of Performing Arts president Dr. Gene Sylvester Eagle-Oden and general manager Anna Glushko pose with the international ballet stars after Saturday's performance.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The island's balletomanes had an early Christmas treat with Glusko's Academy of Performing Arts' staging of *The Nutcracker* & Concert of International Ballet Stars.

Hundreds of community members of all ages and backgrounds trooped to the American Memorial Park Amphitheater to watch the Christmas classic presentation of the premier ballet school on island last Friday and Saturday.

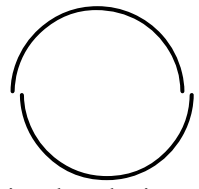
Based on the book by E.T.A. Hoffman and music by Tchaikovsky, *The Nutcracker* enthralled Saipan's audience with delightful performances from the academy's young ballerinas and ballet stars from Japan, Korea, and Russia.

Glusko's Academy president Dr. Gene Sylvester Eagle-Oden said this year's production saw an outpouring of love and support from the community.

General manager Anna Glushko provided the young performers with two cakes courtesy of Hyatt Regency Saipan after their show on Dec. 11.

DONG BEI TREK 14

Liu Lian in the Street Market



f all Chinese stereotypes, nothing is more enduring than the image of the Sino chef's competence in the kitchen, from the railroad camps to the mining towns of the wild, wild west, and the ubiquitous takeout counters of metropolitan centers, suburban malls and village squares. The *chop suey* that the Western taste buds have appropriated is, like the Italian spaghetti (emerging from Marco Polo's return with noodles from China), actually a creation of market demand rather than authentic ethnic cuisine. A third generation Hakka in San Francisco explained to me once that "chop suey" means putting together quickly (chop chop) leftover veggie trimmings before they are fed to the hogs (suey), but did just as well as a meal for miners and train rail workers. Probably apocryphal, but it is a colorful story.

The street market is a phenomenon in almost any Chinese community, and on Taibashan Road in the Tawan Huanggu district of Shenyang, a year-round nightly street market transforms a busy daytime thoroughfare into a community node for hocking food, dry goods, and other commodities.

The abundant supply of fruits from all over Asia is a marvel of transport and marketing. In August, *liu lian* (SE Asia's *durian*) was fragrant at a buck-and-a-quarter per half kilo but double the price refrigerated in winter, still popular. An acquired preference, the fruit "smells like hell and tastes like heaven," consumed for aphrodisiac qualities, but banned from many homes and establishments.

Enhancing connubial pleasures seems to be a feature of food supplements and exotic cuisine. Yanbians favor ginseng tea for prolonging life and quickening blood flow that favors certain private organs of both gender, enlivening otherwise cold nocturnal aerobics. A professional colleague took me to a Korean specialty shop once on Saipan where we were served dog meat, much to my horror later, for though I grew up with the famed Pinoy *caldereta* served when properly inebriated with San Miguel beer, the feast occurred almost like an out-of-body altered consciousness experience.

Mushrooms, tender stag horns, organic extracts and high-protein seeds and grains, all grace the dinner menu and health regimen of body conscious *Zhongguoren* (Chinese), but I must admit that I was stupefied, staring at newly butchered pink-fleshed canines in full



A dusk scene at the onset of a street market in the Tawan Huanggu district of Shenyang; a vendor beams beside a mound of fresh fruits (upper left inset), and our trekker joins colleague over fish and veggies (lower right inset).



display on counters in one of the Yanji *xiao shi chang* (public market) with an adjoining crowded soup shop big enough to accommodate a hundred customers at any given time.

The symbiotic cultural ties with nature, and a long history of pharmacology direct from Mother Nature's lab, renders Sino culinary traits to be broadly accepting in consuming all kinds of organisms and minerals. History of periodic famines has made many creatures, like snakes, rates and ants fair game

on the dining table. Leeches as bloodsuckers are even used for "surgical" purposes, long been employed and still popular as an accessory to plastic surgery!

But it is the street market that has caught our fancy with its abundant supply of sea and farm produce. The *liu lian* is raised in Hainan off the coast of Vietnam, though most of the market supply originates from Thailand brought overland by road and rail, or ported on cargo ships. The Susupe Joeten supply comes roundabout to Saipan

through Oakland in California (I was told) before landing in local freezers. Fresh fruit stalls are a common storefront sight in every neighborhood (upper left photo inset) in the land of the Han.

Practicality is also a feature of kitchen habits. The *wok* (deep concave stir fryer) is for quick intense heat cooking, given the paucity and strict regulated use of wood fuel supply. Eating the viand immediately from the

rooms went down the esophagus accompanied in my mind by strains of Beethoven's *Fifth*, slip and sliding through the digestive track (lower right inset of expectant faces.)

Gastronomic delights abounds in China's numerous eating establishments, and a people whose calligraphy began as pictorial characters, the use of visuals on the menu and on the dining room walls make it easy to choose one's order. Unfortunately, McDonald's, Pizza Hut and KFC share the same tactic, and in the spirit of "it is always greener on the other side," the Sino taste buds have foresworn the *jiao zi* and *wonton* (dumplings) to queue before the double arches, the red hat, and the Colonel.

Gauging the economic health of a nation does not require macro econometrics of national income and employment status. Just visit the street market and sense the ratio of supply and demand. On this basis, we intuitively sense that even with the global recession, China is going to have what many sprouted signs already declare: Happy New Year! *Gong xi fa cai!*

Sarah Palin visits Haiti under tight guard

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin began a tightly stage-managed visit to Haiti on Saturday in which she visited cholera clinics while avoiding crowds and the press.

The 2008 vice presidential candidate was a guest of Rev. Franklin Graham, whose aid group works in the impoverished country. Haiti is facing a brutal cholera epidemic while struggling with an electoral crisis and reconstruction from the January earthquake.

Palin, who traveled in part by helicopter, provided access on her tour solely to the U.S. cable network Fox News.

Graham's organization, Samaritan's Purse, refused to discuss Palin's itinerary with other media and asked Hai-

tian and American reporters to leave its compounds, citing a "security lockdown."

"I've really enjoyed meeting this community. They are so full of joy," Palin was quoted as saying on the organization's website. "We are so fortunate in America, and we are responsible for helping those less fortunate."

Associated Press television journalists saw Palin talking with foreign aid workers. She wore cargo pants, a T-shirt and designer sunglasses on her first trip outside the United States since speaking to investors in Hong Kong last year. That speech was also closed to

the media.

Samaritan's Purse posted pictures online of Palin touring a post-quake shelter, touching the hand of a Haitian child and laughing with Graham and Fox News host Greta van Susteren.

Palin's visit comes amid a cholera outbreak that has killed more than 2,000 people and sickened more than 96,000 others.

This week the country was rocked by riots following the announcement of preliminary results from the Nov. 28 presidential election, which eliminated a popular carnival singer from a run-off in favor of the government-backed candidate.



Palin

Helen Mirren runs with the boys

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

TORONTO (AP)—Helen Mirren is a shape-shifter, says director Julie Taymor, and the actress has extended her metamorphosing talents to changing the gender of not one, but two, well-known authority figures.

First, Mirren stars in Taymor's new film adaptation of "The Tempest," opening Friday, playing sorceress Prospera rather than the traditionally male Prospero of Shakespeare's play.

Then, Mirren steps into John Gielgud's shoes in next year's remake of "Arthur," playing the tough old nanny and substitute parent to a rich, drunken, womanizing man-child.

At 65, most actresses are resigned to fringe roles as grandmas and spinster aunts. Mirren followed 2006's "The Queen," which earned her the best-actress Academy Award, with a stretch of work as busy and varied as any in her 45-year career.

Mirren reprised her long-standing TV role as police detective Jane Tennison in "Prime Suspect 7: The Final Act." She hurtled into the action game with roles in Nicolas Cage's "National Treasure: Book of Secrets," Russell Crowe and Ben Affleck's "State of Play" and Bruce Willis' current hit "Red," a caper about aging spies.

Her upcoming Holocaust-vengeance tale "The Debt" features what Mirren calls her "geriatric fight," a close-quarters death match with an old man in a nursing home, defying Hollywood convention that action roles are for the young.

"The perception of being older is changing," Mirren said in an interview at September's Toronto International Film Festival, where "The Debt" premiered. "It's a lot to do with the fact that the so-called baby boomers are coming into that age, and they're refusing to let go of life, or you know, they're refusing to let go of being in the center of life. ...

"They will not step aside. We'll have to eventually, because we'll be too old not to,"



AP

In this Sept. 14, 2010 file photo, actress Helen Mirren poses for a portrait to promote the film "The Debt" at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Mirren said. "But people used to consign themselves to old age quite early, and I think people don't do that anymore."

Also this year: Mirren had a second film at the Toronto festival, the crime story "Brighton Rock," she starred as a brothel owner in husband Taylor Hackford's "Love Ranch," and she did a voice role for the animated "Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole."

That all followed another best-actress Oscar nomination for 2009's "The Last Station," in which she played Leo Tolstoy's imperious wife.

"I keep saying to my husband, 'It's all going to stop very soon, you know, Taylor,'" Mirren said. "It will inevitably. But you know, while it's not stopping, I'm happy to go along with the flow."

"The Tempest" proved a star-crossed meeting of minds. Mirren had been watching a stage version when it occurred to her that Prospero — a single par-

ent raising a daughter on a remote island while orchestrating revenge and redemption for old enemies—could be played as a woman without changing a thing.

She mentioned the idea when she met Taymor, creator of the Broadway adaptation of "The Lion King." Taymor, who had directed stage productions of "The Tempest," already had been thinking about a film version with a woman in the lead.

"It was hers as soon as it came out of her mouth," Taymor said. "There's a vulnerability she brings to the maternal part of this in a way you've never seen with Prospero. And you believe in her intelligence, as well. What's behind those eyes, those incredible eyes. ...

"She can do anything. Looking at the range of her work, she's played persons of power, persons of magic. She's played a queen — she's played a couple of queens, so she's definitely a formidable presence."

It was not Mirren's first

gender-bending "Tempest" role. As a child at her all-girls school, Mirren played wild man Caliban, a role done by Djimon Hounsou in Taymor's "Tempest." The film also features Chris Cooper, David Strathairn, Alfred Molina, Alan Cumming and Russell Brand, who has the title role opposite Mirren in the remake of "Arthur."

Mirren began her career with Shakespeare, playing Cleopatra in a 1965 production of "Antony and Cleopatra" for Britain's National Youth Theatre. She later joined the Royal Shakespeare Company and made her film debut in a 1968 adaptation of the playwright's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

She worked steadily in British film and TV through the 1970s before breaking out internationally in the 1980s in such films as "Excalibur," "2010," "The Mosquito Coast" and "White Nights," directed by future husband Hackford.

The first of her four Oscar nominations came for supporting actress on 1994's "The Madness of King George," with a second supporting-actress slot coming for 2001's "Gosford Park."

"The Tempest" gave Mirren the opportunity to play a truly meaty Shakespeare role for an older actor, a rarity for women.

"As you get older, as an actress specifically, the roles in Shakespeare as everywhere else tend to sort of die away," Mirren said. "It actually takes you a long time to learn how to do Shakespeare. You're not good at it when you're young. You get much better at it when you get older, but the annoying thing as an actress, as you're suddenly getting into your powers with your Shakespearean abilities, the roles disappear.

"You've got Cleopatra, you've got Gertrude (Hamlet's mom), which is not a good role, you've got Lady MacBeth, which is not a good role," Mirren said. "Queen Margaret (a central figure in some of Shakespeare's historical dramas). But none of them, they're not the roles like the men have. It's not King Lear."

Lost keys give thieves easy entrance into house

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: About a month ago, my friend lost her keys in a major department store. Despite announcements in the store, the keys were never found. My friend wasn't worried because she had her wallet and personal information in her purse.

Two weeks later, her home was robbed. There was no sign of forced entry. What we learned from the police is that the little tags we carry on our key chains from major pharmacy and supermarket chains carry our names on the receipts. All the person who found the keys had to do was purchase something, swipe the card, and the receipt came up with my friend's name printed on it! Unfortunately, her name is listed in the phone book, so the thief was able to find her house, use her house key, walk right in and take whatever he/she wanted.

I no longer keep the tags on my key chain. I keep them in a separate place in my purse or in my pocket. I hope this keeps at least one person from being robbed.

KAREN IN METHUEN, MASS.

DEAR KAREN: So do I, and thank you for the warning. For those who prefer not to carry those little tags at all, many are linked with the shopper's telephone number in the pharmacy's or supermarket's computer. If you mention it before the cashier starts ringing up your purchase, the sale can be rung up as part of the saver's program. Inquire at the stores where you shop regularly.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Five years ago, when my niece was 9, we came up with the idea of making Christmas cards and sending them out to special friends and family members. We both work hard to make sure each is attractive and in good taste, and we handwrite a personal note inside. We also print on the back that the card was "handmade with love." This has become a tradition for the two of us, and the cards are quite beautiful.

Last year, after we sent them out, I received a card from a friend with a small check inside. The card read, "I'm sending you this check so you can afford to buy 'real cards' next year." I was, to say the least, hurt and offended. I wondered if others felt similarly, so I asked around and was shocked to learn they, too, thought I was "cheap." Although it cost more money and time to create each card, no one appreciated them.

We won't be making the cards this year, but how do I tell my niece why? I don't want her feelings hurt, too.

BLUE AT CHRISTMAS

DEAR BLUE: Tell your niece what you were told—and by whom—so she won't waste any more effort on these rude and unappreciative individuals. Better she hear it from you than one of the recipients.

As to the "friend" who sent the check, I hope you returned it and deleted her from your Christmas card list. What she did was uncalled for.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 13 and I have a problem. My mother gave me \$20 so I could go Christmas shopping, but I forgot I was Christmas shopping and ended up buying everything for myself. Now what do I do, because she's really mad.

IN TROUBLE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR IN TROUBLE: Apologize to your mother, admit what happened wasn't a memory lapse as much as yielding to temptation, and start doing whatever you can to earn more money. Some suggestions: shoveling sidewalks and driveways and dog walking, if the neighbors will let you.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Hasselhoff reality show canceled after 2 episodes

NEW YORK (AP)—David Hasselhoff has been beached by the A&E Network. The cable channel said Friday it has yanked the former "Baywatch" star's reality show off the air after only two episodes. Eight completed episodes will remain unaired. "The Hasselhoffs" featured the actor and his two daughters, who are aspiring to get into show biz. The Nielsen Co. says the first episode was seen by 718,000 viewers, and the audience sank to 505,000 the second week. That means more than half the people who watched the show preceding "The Hasselhoffs" on A&E's Sunday schedule, "Gene Simmons' Family Jewels," turned the TV off or changed channels when Hasselhoff appeared. The Kiss musician's show had an audience of 1.4 million.

'The Closer' set to conclude after next season

NEW YORK (AP)—TNT says its hit drama "The Closer" will be closing up shop next year. The network announced Friday that the detective series will conclude its run after a seventh season. Production of those final 15 episodes is scheduled to begin next spring. TNT says the series' Emmy-winning star, Kyra Sedgwick, decided

to conclude the show's successful run. On the show, Sedgwick plays Los Angeles Police Department Deputy Chief Brenda Leigh Johnson, a transplanted Atlantan with a sweet tooth and a gift for solving murders. Currently airing its sixth season, "The Closer," which began in 2005, is averaging more than 8 million viewers weekly.

110-year-old Honolulu Symphony seeks to liquidate

HONOLULU (AP)—The 110-year-old Honolulu Symphony is preparing to sound its own death knell. Lawyers are set to appear Monday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court to ask a judge to convert the symphony's Chapter 11 reorganization to a Chapter 7 liquidation. The symphony's board of directors voted unanimously Thursday to convert the filing. Under Chapter 7, the symphony would shut down, then sell all its remaining assets to pay creditors. The Honolulu Symphony has been operating under Chapter 11 protection for about a year after canceling all of its concerts. Officials had said they hoped to come back as a leaner and more efficient operation. In a filing last December, the symphony said it had assets of between \$100,000 and \$500,000, and liabilities of \$1 million to \$10 million.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS				DOWN			
39 Bill	41 Roman	42 In the	43 same	22 Night	23 vision?	24 A mere	25 That
1 Reveille's	1,052	44 In the	45 same	1 Jog	2 Verdi	3 Indigent	4 Bitter
5 Sindhbad's	42 In the	46 In the	47 same	5 Rabble	6 Harem	7 Imogene	8 Poolside
8 Reach by	place	48 In the	49 same	9 Baldness	10 Swag	11 Albanian	12 Tokyo's
12 Urban	45 "Gilli-	49 Lying	50 prone	13 Altar	51 Stead	14 Lotion	15 Smell
13 Altar	49 Lying	52 Woman	53 in	16 MySpace	54 Paradise	17 Import	18 Tweeks
14 Lotion	52 Woman	55 Shrill	56 bark	19 Points	20 of	21 Auto-	22 King,
15 Smell	Germany	57 Cincin-	58 team	23 Individual	24 King,	25 Queen or	26 Jack
16 MySpace	53 That	59 That	60 woman	27 Pinnacle	28 Listener	29 Beatles'	30 "Fine"
17 Import	54 Paradise	61 That	62 woman	31 Anger	32 Caprice	33 Hockey	34 goalie's
18 Tweeks	55 Shrill	63 That	64 team	35 Stuffed	36 Require	37 Presses	38 for
19 Points	56 bark	65 That	66 team	39 Payment	40 Personal	41 question?	42 SUDOKU

Solution time: 24 mins.

L	O	R	E	A	L	A	L	C	O	V	E	
U	R	S	I	N	E	G	A	E	L	I	C	
G	E	E	S	A	H	E	M	E	L	K		
			M	E	N	U	A	S	S			
O	R	B		D	I	S	H	A	L	E	S	
W	A	I	T	U	N	T	I	L	D	A	R	K
E	W	E	R		G	L	E	E	W	A	Y	
			N	Y	C		E	R	G	O		
P	I	N		H	E	R	A	S	O	F	A	
A	S	I	M	O	V	R	A	C	K	E	T	
C	L	A	I	R	E	C	H	A	I	S	E	
K	E	L	L	E	R	H	A	R	E	S		

Saturday's answer 12-13

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19			20				
			21			22		23				
24	25	26					27		28		29	30
31				32				33		34		
35				36		37			38			
			39		40		41					
42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49						50			51			
52					53				54			
55					56				57			

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Taylor Swift, 21; Jamie Foxx, 43; Wendie Malick, 60; Christopher Plummer, 81

Happy Birthday: You will be faced with some last-minute changes that will be challenging if you aren't prepared. Realignment will be necessary. Set reasonable goals and stick to your plan. Venturing too far off the beaten track will lead to failure. Do your best to achieve what you want. Your numbers are 5, 7, 10, 21, 32, 34, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't make any decisions that may affect your position, status or advancement. You need a moment to recap what you've been through and to avoid a repeat performance that is costly or leads to greater uncertainty. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You've got everything in order. All you need to do now is make things happen. Your wisdom and charm will attract those wanting to help you reach your goals. A partnership will prove advantageous. Romance is highlighted. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Discipline will be required to finish incomplete projects. You can come up with a lucrative plan if you look at what you have to offer. A service that will help people just like you will bring in additional cash. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get into high gear and complete jobs that need to be finished before the year comes to a close. A little research will make your job that much easier, allowing you more time to spend with family or your lover. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take on a new project or look for an unusual interest. Focusing on learning a skill that can help you get ahead professionally will motivate you to strive for more. Don't let a lover or family member take over. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will attract business partners if you talk about an idea you want to put into motion in the new year. A challenge will interest you and bring you in contact with people you find inspiring and motivational. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Watch your step, especially when dealing with touchy friends, relatives or neighbors. Stick close to home. A change in your current job or position may come about quickly. Discipline and hard work will pay off. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can talk your way in or out of any situation by putting a little friendly pressure on anyone giving you a hard time. Getting involved in social networking will pay off. Don't make any promises before you know what you are getting in return. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may want to sit back and relax. Someone will take advantage of you or cause an emotional ruckus based on something you say or do. Stick close to home and protect your assets. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your ability to take care of both personal and professional business will be

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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impressive and will help you control a situation you face with a friend or neighbor. A short jaunt to a place that interests you will pay off. Love is on the rise. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stop to help someone and you will forget about your own worries. A disciplined attitude regarding money should be encouraged if you don't want to fall behind in your bill payments. A problem with an old friend or lover will set you back if you are too gullible. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can make headway if you listen, observe and prepare to make your personal or professional moves. Romance is in the stars. A promise made will be kept. Experience will pay off. ***

Birthday Baby: You care about the underdog. You are a determined and have vision. Preparation is your best asset.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

3	8	6	9			1				
					2		3			
	1	4								
5	4	1	3	9					2	
	7						1			
6				5	1	3	4	8		
						4	5			
	9			1						
		8			5	9	7	6		

Difficulty Level ★

12/13

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

6	2	4	7	3	8	5	1	9
1	5	9	2	6	4	8	7	3
8	7	3	5	9	1	6	4	2
2	1	5	6	7	9	4	3	8
7	4	6	8	1	3	2	9	5
3	9	8	4	2	5	7	6	1
4	6	1	9	8	2	3	5	7
9	8	7	3	5	6	1	2	4
5	3	2	1	4	7	9	8	6

Difficulty Level ★★

12/11

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THAI MUSIC

Solution: 6 letters

E	D	R	N	E	V	E	S	P	J	A	R	A	K	E
N	L	O	C	I	P	H	E	R	I	A	E	A	G	M
S	T	D	S	I	N	G	R	U	S	P	V	O	N	A
E	O	P	D	G	N	O	G	T	R	R	H	A	B	H
M	N	A	G	I	H	O	I	E	E	O	T	A	T	O
B	R	H	N	T	F	C	H	M	T	A	P	H	T	R
L	E	T	U	E	K	A	M	P	B	E	U	E	E	I
E	T	A	H	S	N	A	R	O	O	M	L	S	A	C
D	S	P	T	C	H	O	G	T	B	R	O	L	H	N
A	E	T	H	M	Y	G	H	A	S	P	E	I	A	Y
N	W	L	R	A	N	M	N	P	M	E	N	T	D	M
C	A	O	A	I	I	G	B	O	O	E	H	O	E	I
E	F	I	K	C	K	R	C	A	S	L	L	C	L	H
L	A	O	S	O	S	E	A	E	L	Y	A	R	K	
M	A	R	K	A	N	D	R	U	M	S	B	X	N	O

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Last Saturday's Answer: Driveway
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Saipan Tribune
FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2009

Fitial eyes Cepeda's re-appointment to NMC board. PAGI
DPH to ask for extension of emergency declaration. PAGI

\$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for Obama's

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The fate of the \$1.35 million in CNMI special projects funding requested by Del-

egate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) now rests with President Obama, after the conference report on the omnibus Fiscal Year 2010 spending bill cleared the U.S. Senate on Sunday.

Sablan's request for \$1.35 million to fund seven programs and projects is contained in the Conference Report on Fiscal Year 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act, a \$447-billion spending measure for several C agencies. On a r Senate :

Fitial: Ombudsman shouldn't

accommodate 'over

10 DAYS to go before Christmas

OPINION METER

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Wade lifts Heat to eighth straight win



SACRAMENTO, Calif.

(AP)—Dwyane Wade's flying, one-handed rebound jam highlighted his 36-point night and led the Miami Heat to their season-best eighth straight win, 104-83 over the Sacramento Kings on Saturday.

LeBron James scored 25 and Chris Bosh added 14 points and a season-high 17 rebounds as the Heat broke open a close game in the third quarter to complete a perfect four-game road trip.

After losing three of four in late November as the newly formed super team struggled to come together, the Heat have won every game during this winning streak by double digits.

The Kings, who have lost 15 of 17 and have the second-worst record in the NBA, offered little resistance to James, Wade, Bosh and Co.

Playing on the back end of a back-to-back after winning at Golden State on Friday night, the Heat broke the game open in the third quarter. After Wade helped put Miami in the lead with a 13-point second quarter, James got his offense going with 14 points in the third.

James hit a pair of early baskets as Miami scored the first eight points of the third to open up a 13-point lead. The Heat outscored the Kings 17-2 to begin the quarter, getting a pair of baskets from each of the Big Three and five points from Carlos Arroyo, whose 3-pointer made it 64-44.

Miami tightened up defensively in the third against the young Kings, who made just one of their first 13 shots in the period. Omri Casspi was one of the few Kings who could get any offense going, hitting a pair of 3-pointers and annoying James with his pesky play.

James was upset he did not get a foul call when Casspi knocked a ball off him and out of bounds. The two then bumped before free throws and James was called for goaltending trying to block a breakaway layup by Casspi.

James, who was booed almost every time he touched the ball, was then called for a technical for clapping at the Kings bench after making a jumper in the final minute of the third quarter.

The Kings failed to get it to single digits in the fourth quarter, losing for the 13th time in 14 meetings against the Heat.

The highlight of the final quarter came when Wade came flying down the lane to make a one-handed grab for the rebound of a Mario Chalmers miss and jam it home in one motion.

Casspi led Sacramento with 20 points and Jason Thompson added 13. Reigning Rookie of the Year Tyreke Evans, playing on a sore left foot, was held to five points on 2-for-10 shooting.

Miami took the floor in sole possession of first place in the Southeast Division for the first time all season. After a sluggish start, the Heat went on a 15-0 run in the second quarter to erase an early deficit and build an eight-point lead.

Wade scored seven points during the spurt and Chalmers capped it with a 3-pointer that made it 37-29.

Casspi responded with a pair of 3-pointers for Sacramento but Wade scored two baskets in the final minute of the half to give the Heat a 47-42 lead at the break.

Mavericks 103, Jazz 97

In Dallas, Germany's Dirk Nowitzki had



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade goes up for the shot as Sacramento Kings guard Tyreke Evans, right, looks on during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Sacramento Kings in Sacramento, Calif., Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010.

31 points and 15 rebounds as the Dallas Mavericks extended their winning streak to 12 games with a 103-97 victory over the Utah Jazz in the NBA on Saturday.

DeShawn Stevenson added a season-high 17 points and Caron Butler had 16 points for Dallas.

The Mavericks hit 14 of 26 from 3-point range to prevail in a matchup of Western Conference heavyweights.

Deron Williams scored 19 of his 34 points in the first half to lead the Jazz, who had won nine of 11. Paul Millsap added 16 points and Ronnie Price scored 14 for Utah.

Raptors 120, Pistons 116

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Jerryd Bayless matched a career high with 31 points as Toronto pulled off its biggest comeback in franchise history to beat Detroit.

Toronto overcame a 25-point second-half deficit to end a four-game losing streak. The victory was just the Raptors' third of the season on the road.

Italy's Andrea Bargnani added 22

points, including a pair of key 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, and Brazilian Leandro Barbosa scored 20. Ben Wallace had a career-high 23 points and 14 rebounds, while Rodney Stuckey also scored 23.

Toronto shot 65 percent from the floor in the first half, but committed 14 turnovers that led to 29 Detroit points. The Pistons only turned the ball over once on their way to a 72-53 lead.

Grizzlies 84, Clippers 83

In Los Angeles, Zach Randolph had 18 points and 13 rebounds and Spain's Marc Gasol added 17 points as Memphis held on to beat Los Angeles.

Baron Davis missed an 18-footer at the buzzer for the Clippers, who were coming off an 87-86 loss to the Lakers on Derek Fisher's driving layup at the buzzer on Wednesday.

Eric Gordon scored 25 points and Blake Griffin had 19 points and 11 rebounds for Los Angeles.

Gay, the Grizzlies' leading scorer, was

held to 12 points on 5-for-12 shooting.

Rockets 110, Cavaliers 95

In Houston, Kevin Martin scored 32 of his season-high 40 points in the first half and Argentine Luis Scola added 14 points and 14 rebounds to lift Houston over Cleveland.

Shane Battier also scored 16 for the Rockets, who outrebounded Cleveland 48-34 and went 12 for 26 from 3-point range. Antawn Jamison scored a season-high 24 points and Mo Williams added 18 points and nine assists for Cleveland, who have lost seven in a row, their longest skid since dropping seven straight in 2004.

Bulls 113, Timberwolves 82

In Chicago, Derrick Rose had 21 points and seven assists to lead Chicago over Minnesota for its season-best fifth straight victory.

Rose set a career high with five 3-pointers. It was the third time this season he has made four or more 3s. He made that many just once during his first two NBA seasons.

Kevin Love had 23 points and 15 rebounds and Michael Beasley added 16 points for the Timberwolves.

The Bulls (14-8) are six games over .500 for the first time since finishing the 2006-07 season with a 49-33 record.

Celtics 93, Bobcats 62

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Ray Allen and Glen Davis scored 16 points apiece to lift Boston over Charlotte for its 10th straight victory.

Kevin Garnett added 13 points and 11 rebounds for Boston, which played their second straight game without center Shaquille O'Neal, who was resting his sore right calf.

Nazr Mohammed scored 14 points for the Bobcats, who shot 34 percent and committed 22 turnovers.

Hawks 97, Pacers 83

In Atlanta, Jamal Crawford scored 25 points and Josh Smith added 21 despite a sore hamstring to lead Atlanta over Indiana.

Al Horford also finished two assists shy of a triple-double with 16 points, 16 rebounds and eight assists.

Mike Dunleavy had 16 points and Danny Granger and Brandon Rush each added 14 for the Pacers.

The Hawks have won eight straight over the Pacers.

Carmelo hopes to play against New York

NEW YORK (AP)—Carmelo Anthony definitely wants to play in New York—on Sunday.

He insists he isn't thinking about his future beyond that, and denies circling the Denver Nuggets' lone visit to Madison Square Garden on his calendar.

"Everybody's been circling it for me. So I didn't have a chance to circle this game," Anthony said Saturday after practice at a local sports club.

It's Anthony's opportunity to inherit LeBron James' old role as the superstar who receives a raucous ovation from the Knicks' fans, because they believe he'll soon be joining them.

James passed on the Knicks—"Now they boo him," Anthony said—and the Nuggets' star reiterated Saturday that he hasn't already decided he's Big Apple bound, no matter what has been reported.

"Everybody's got something to say about every situation," Anthony said. "My mind is not made up, my mind is just focused on this game tomorrow. That's really all I'm focused on right now. My mind is not made up, I don't know where that's coming from."

It's not certain Anthony will play. He missed the last two games with a sore right knee, and the Nuggets are calling him a game-time decision. Anthony worked out and said he'll arrive early to the arena to test the knee, but coach George Karl said his gut feeling was that Anthony would try to go.

Anthony seemed to be moving well during his workout, saying he felt better but was still bothered sometimes when running or jumping. If he plays, the Knicks expect him to play well.

"If he's out there, he's going to be a handful," coach Mike D'Antoni said.

One that Knicks fans envision lining up alongside Amare Stoudemire in a powerful front line.

Anthony has refused to sign the three-year, \$65 million contract extension that has been on the table

since last summer and can become a free agent in July. A resolution will come before then, as Anthony said he has constant discussions with general manager Masai Ujiri and expects a decision one way or the other to be made before February's trading deadline—when the Nuggets would likely deal Anthony if he told them he wasn't coming back.

If Anthony is considering New York, where he was born, lived his first eight years and was married this summer, the Knicks can show him something they couldn't when they tried to recruit James. They have won seven straight and are 15-9, playing their best basketball in a decade, and with Stoudemire in place have a much better chance of convincing a free agent he can win here.

"I think every organization, that would be better," D'Antoni said. "I think that you win, you get more valuable pieces."

Whether he comes or not, Anthony has already helped the Knicks. He last spoke to Stoudemire after the Nuggets' 120-118 victory in Nov. 16 in Denver that dropped New York to 3-8. Anthony said he told his friend to "get them boys on track, to do what he's got to do."

The Knicks are 12-1 since, and Stoudemire tied a franchise record in Friday's 101-95 victory at Washington with his seventh straight 30-point game.

"It sunk in and he's doing everything I told him to do," Anthony said.

Though the game is getting attention in New York and Anthony joked that all of Brooklyn might be in attendance, Karl said it's just another game for the Nuggets. Anthony is treating it the same way for himself.

"I haven't been distracted all year by anything, everything that's going on, so I'm not going to let just one game like that," he said. "If anything I'll be excited, but I won't be distracted."

Auburn's Newton wins Heisman in landslide



NEW YORK
(AP) — Cam Newton thanked his mother, then his father. And

then he paused to compose himself.

Cecil Newton was back in Georgia, though his son put him squarely in the room where the Auburn quarterback accepted college football's biggest award Saturday night—the Heisman Trophy.

“Thank you for all you did for me,” he told his parents, adding, “To my father, I love you so much.”

There was no doubt Newton would win the Heisman. Whether he gets to keep it is still uncertain.

Newton brushed off an investigation that determined his father violated NCAA rules as he did so many tacklers this season and captured the Heisman in a landslide vote.

That didn't mean it all wasn't tinged with sadness because his father was not there.

“I'd be sitting up here lying to you if I didn't say it hurt,” Newton said during the ESPN telecast before the winner was announced. “This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I love my father. He gave me words of encouragement before I came up here. I know he's with me in spirit.”

The third player from Auburn to win the Heisman, Newton received 729 first-place votes and outpointed runner-up Andrew Luck of Stanford by 1,184 points.

“Honestly, it's a dream come true for me, something every child has a dream (about) that plays the sport of football, and I'm living testimony that anything is possible,” Newton said.

Oregon running back LaMichael James was third, followed by Boise State quarterback Kellen Moore, the other finalist.

Newton didn't look a bit surprised when his name was announced inside the Best Buy Theater in Times Square. A wide smile spread across his face and he dropped his head.



Auburn quarterback Cam Newton reacts during a news conference after winning the Heisman Trophy award, Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010, in New York.

After exchanging hugs and handshakes with the other finalists, he and his mother, Jackie, shared a long embrace.

“When I reached my mother I really didn't want to let go,” Newton said. “It's been hard for me, but it's been extremely hard for her just to see how much her son has been through and I just wanted to hug her the whole night to make her feel at ease.”

When he reached the podium, he had to steady himself.

“Oh my God,” he whispered as he reached into his inside jacket pocket to pull out his speech.

On the field and off, Newton has been the story of the college football season. He's carried the top-ranked Tigers to the BCS national championship game against No. 2 Oregon, running and passing over opponents who looked helpless trying to stop

him. But his story is stained: Last month the NCAA determined his father tried to peddle him to Mississippi State for cash.

However, the NCAA cleared him to play before the Southeastern Conference title game because it found no evidence that he or Auburn knew about Cecil Newton's pay-for-play scheme. It also suggested that it was still investigating, as were the FBI and the Mississippi secretary of state's office. Cam Newton has denied any wrongdoing.

Still, it invites speculation that the newest Heisman winner could perhaps be heading down the same path as Reggie Bush, who returned his trophy three months ago after the NCAA ruled that he and his family received cash and gifts while he was at Southern California.

Asked about the possibility during his news conference, Newton

said firmly: “Two letters for you my friend—No.”

To be eligible for the Heisman, a player must be in good standing with the NCAA. And for most of November, that was unclear following claims by a Mississippi State booster who said Newton's father tried to get the Bulldogs to pay \$180,000 for his son to play for them.

The NCAA didn't punish Cam Newton but did say Cecil Newton's access to Auburn athletics would have to be limited.

So Cecil Newton stayed home. In a statement released by his lawyer earlier in the week, he said his presence could “rob Cam and the event of a sacred moment.”

All the uncertainty didn't keep voters from making Newton an overwhelming choice - he received the sixth most first-place votes and the third highest percentage of first-place votes. Though 105 voters among the 886 who returned ballots chose not to list him among their three selections.

“Obviously, like most people, I have my suspicions, but I don't think it's my position to pretend to know what is happening with the NCAA investigation,” said voter Stewart Mandel of SI.com.

It was impossible to argue against Newton's performance.

Blending a linebacker's body with a tailback's speed and quickness, the 6-foot-6, 250-pounder from Georgia has guided Auburn to a perfect season. His numbers are off the charts: an SEC-best 1,409 yards rushing with 21 touchdowns, and 2,589 yards passing and 28 TD passes. He's the first SEC player to run for at least 1,000 yards and pass for at least 2,000 in the same season.

Early in the season, Auburn shredded defenses with Newton on the ground. Working out of offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn's spread attack, he ran for at least 176 yards in four straight SEC games. Not even Bo Jackson, the last Auburn player to win the Heisman, did that.

As the season wore on and opponents focused on stopping Newton from running wild, he started beating

them with his arm.

Newton threw 15 touchdown passes and only one interception in the final five games, saving maybe his best performance for last. In a 56-17 victory over South Carolina in the SEC title game, Newton passed for 335 yards and four touchdowns and ran for 73 yards and two scores.

By mid-October, Newton was the clear Heisman front-runner and, ultimately, not even the scandal could slow his Heisman run.

But even before Newton became a star at Auburn, he made news for the wrong reasons.

Newton attended Florida out of high school and in 2007, as a freshman, served as Tim Tebow's backup.

The next season he was arrested for having a stolen laptop, which he says he bought. The charges were dropped when he completed a pretrial intervention program for first-time offenders.

He decided to transfer out of Florida in January 2009, the day after Tebow announced he would return for his senior season.

Newton has said he left because he wanted to play, but during the stream of scandalous news about him last month there also were media reports that he was facing possible discipline at Florida for academic cheating.

He spent the 2009 season at Blinn College, a two-year school in Texas, and helped it win a JUCO national championship.

When it came time to return to major college football, Newton picked Auburn over Mississippi State and coach Dan Mullen, his former position coach with the Gators. Newton has said he let his father make the decision and Cecil Newton picked Auburn because it was closer to home.

This could very well be Newton's first and last season at Auburn. He's projected as a high to middle first-round NFL draft pick.

If he is one and done, Newton's lone season as a starter could go down as one of the greatest in college football history if he also adds a national championship trophy to Auburn's display case—the Tigers' first since 1957.

Snow forces Giants to stay in KC; game on Monday



MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Brett Favre has got to love a snowstorm. His ailing shoulder has been given another day to heal.

The Giants-Vikings game was moved to Monday night because Minnesota had at least 15 inches of snow and wind gusting over 30 mph and the New York team was waiting it out in Kansas City.

The Vikings announced the game will kick off at 8 p.m. EST and remain televised by Fox in the Minnesota and New York markets.

The delay gives Favre, the Vikings' 41-year-old bionic quarterback, another day to rest his sprained throwing shoulder. Favre is aiming to make his NFL-record 298th straight start, but he has barely practiced all week. He's listed as questionable for the game, after getting hit hard and slammed to the turf on his first pass of last week's game against the Buffalo Bills.

Favre built his reputation in the wintry weather in Green Bay, winning a playoff game in January 2008 during his last season with the Packers while

flakes flew all over and Lambeau Field looked like a shook-up snow globe.

As for the Giants? They must really be tired of these trips to Minnesota by now.

The Vikings and Giants are set to play for the ninth time in the last 10 regular seasons, a scheduling quirk that has slated seven of those meetings—this year would be three in a row—for Minnesota.

The Vikings (5-7) have beaten the Giants (8-4) four straight times.

With close to a foot-and-a-half of blowing snow accumulating in the Twin Cities area throughout the day Saturday, the Giants' charter flight was diverted to Kansas City instead. After hanging out in the terminal for a bit, the team then settled in to spend the night there, with an initial plan in place to fly to Minnesota on Sunday morning and make it to the stadium in time for regularly scheduled 1 p.m. EST kickoff.

But the NFL made the announcement later Saturday night that the game was being moved.

Giants spokesman Pat Hanlon said on Twitter the team “monitored weather all week” and moved up the depart-

ure time by 3 1/2 hours Saturday. That didn't prove to be enough of a head start to make it to Minneapolis before the airport shut down all runways.

Last season, an approaching snowstorm in Baltimore prompted a Sunday game between the Ravens and Chicago Bears to be bumped back three hours, but such a switch in this television-driven league is rare.

The Vikings weren't exactly enjoying a hassle-free weekend, either, simply because they were at home. Most players live in the suburbs near the team's offices and practice facility, about a 20 minute drive from the Metrodome without heavy traffic or tough conditions, and they still had to make it to the downtown hotel where they stay the night before games.

Left tackle Bryant McKinnie announced on Twitter shortly after 6 p.m. local time his plan to be cautious: “Heading 2 the hotel, giving myself a 2 hour window 2 make it n this weather.”

McKinnie checked in with an update a little later: “I made it 2 the hotel safely, it took us about 45 min, when its usually about 20 to 25! All good though.”

Texas believes Lee will stay with Rangers



DALLAS (AP)—Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington has a gut feeling about Cliff Lee.

“That he'll be here,” he said Saturday.

The Rangers and New York Yankees are waiting for a decision on which offer the 32-year-old left-hander will accept. They are the two known bidders for the \$100 million-plus pitcher, although there may be others.

“I think everything that needs to be done has been done. ... We just have to wait,” Washington said.

The Yankees offered Lee a seven-year contract Thursday after making an opening proposal of six years for \$137.5 million to \$140 million. Rangers owner Chuck Greenberg went to Arkansas on Thursday to personally present Lee with multiple offers.

“They had a good visit, and now we're waiting for some type of decision,” Washington said Saturday at a luncheon where he was inducted into

the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame.

Washington hasn't had any conversations with Lee and doesn't think any are needed. He knows the outcome is crucial for both the Rangers and Yankees.

“It would be huge simply because you'd have a No. 1 starter,” Washington said. “Since we had him for 2 1/2 months, we know what he brings. We'd like to see that over the long haul of a full season. Once again it comes down to waiting on Cliff Lee and his family, and they have to decide what they want to do. It's tough to speculate because you don't know. I told you what my gut said.”

The decision might not come until Monday or later in the week.

“I can wait until they decide what they want to do,” Washington said. “When a decision comes, it's going to be yea or nay. There's nothing more you can do about it. I have no idea when he's going to make a decision. I don't think he needs to make one until opening day of spring training.”

Yo Face stuns Magic in rocball semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Upset marked the start of the playoff round of the 2010-2011 High School Rocaball League, as Yo Face stunned Magic in overtime last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Magic was seeded first in the semifinals, while Yo Face was ranked last in the four-team field going into last week's playoffs.

Yo Face began its bid for an upset with a 16-12 win in the first set before Magic recovered and nailed a 16-2 victory in the

third set. Heading into the third set, Magic was ahead, 28-18, and needed only to win the third set and oust Yo Face.

However, Yo Face escaped with a 16-15 triumph to force an overtime. After three sets

Magic was in front, 43-34, but could not take the win, as rocball rules allow a leading team to win provided it also prevails in the last set. In overtime, the first team to score five points or a goal (which ever



comes first) wins the o-kon.

Yo Face trailed, 2-3, in overtime when it earned a point off Magic's serve to tie the game, 3-all. Yo Face then scored an ace to end the game and Magic's season. Yo Face advanced to the finals against the winner of the Kingz and Hit It semis

tiff this week.

Despite losing the semis match, Magic outscored Yo Face in three departments. Magic led in aces, 6-5; kees, 5-3; and goals, 2-1. The Magic's Wilton Laniyo was the game's heavy hitter with 12 points off four kees and two aces.

Hustlers, Fotten Palau stay on top

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Docomo Hustlers of Utopia Bar and USSP's Fotten Palau are currently ranked first in their respective division in the 2010 Saipan Billiard Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

The Hustlers hold a record of 73 wins and 32 losses and a 0.6950 winning percentage to top the Agingan division. The Homeboyz (69-36) and the IT&E Voyagers (66-39), both out of Jonny's Bar, are not too



The IT&E Incredibles of Buddies' Bar & Grill pulled off an upset on the road over Jonny's Home Boyz, 4-3, during last Tuesday's SBA Budweiser Open 8-Ball League game.

far behind.

Agingan division notables

include the Hustlers' Jerry Soriano, who has ran the table eight

times so far this season.

In the Obyan play, Fotten Palau (53-53) is seated first over Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's Shark Attack (45-60) and D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Who-Oah! (45-60), who are tied for second place.

Obyan division notables include Frank Palacios, who has sank the 8-Ball off the break one-time and Taylor Watanabe, who has ran the table three times.

Hustlers 5, ToroKeyRee 2

At Utopia, the home team Hustlers won four of the five singles matches, one by tiebreaker, to secure the victory. They went on to add to their total the first doubles contest in two racks.

Pirates 4, Voyagers 3

At D'Pirates, home team Pirates fell into a hole early and won only two of the five singles matches, both by tiebreaker. But they came back and took both doubles contests, by tiebreaker, for the upset win.

Turtles 4, Shark Attack 3

At Wild Bill's, the visiting Turtles of USSP lost the first two singles matches, but rallied back to take the last three, all by tiebreaker. Then the Turtles won the first doubles match, by tiebreaker, to secure the victory.

Incredibles 4, Home Boyz 3

At Jonny's Bar, the visiting Incredibles of Buddies' Bar & Grill won three of the five singles matches, one by tiebreaker, and went on to take the first doubles contest for the win.

Fotten Palau 5, Who-Oah! 2

At USSP, home team Fotten Palau won four of the five singles matches, all by tiebreaker, to secure the victory.

After losing the first double match, Fotten Palau went on to take the final doubles game via tiebreaker.

MP

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into the closing minutes in the second half. The U14 division plays a nine a side match, but teams are allowed to suit up with at least six players.

MP United paraded a complete lineup, using a nine-man team in the first half. With Paire Black lacking one defender, MP United's Jehn Joyner broke away from Paire's scrambling defense and scored the game's first goal in the fifth minute.

Nine minutes later, it was

Park's turn to found the back of the net, as he sprinted to Paire's goal and kicked the ball, which passed in between the legs of goalie Ethan Dickinson.

Park's second goal came in the 31st minute with Park faking off Dickinson's defense, who dove to the left post, but the ball rolled to the right side.

Four minutes after the second half started, Joyner got his second goal. He broke away from Paire Black's defense, anew and momentarily lost his dribble after getting a nudge from a Paire defender. However, Joyner recovered possession

and kicked the ball for MP United's 4-0 lead.

After struggling with a depleted crew, fatigue finally caught up with Paire in the ensuing plays, resulting to a pair of easy goals for MP United. Daniel Lim made it to the scoreboard with his goal in the 57th minute, while Park completed the hat-trick with a goal in the 89th minute.

Paire had his lone goal in the 62nd minute off Joel Fruit's goal with the ball rolling to the right corner and MP United's goal Greg Sablan heading to the left post.

Meanwhile, in the girls U14 fi-

nals, Tahlia Hideo scored the only goal in the game in the first half.

Lindsay Davis coached Matansa, which secured its fourth straight U14 title. Last year, Matansa swept the spring and fall seasons, and won the spring league mid this year.

MP United took their third championship since NMIFA started giving perpetual trophies in 2009. MP United ruled the spring season in 2009, while Paire topped the fall league. In spring this season, MP United also won the spring season and completed the 2010 sweep with another triumph in the fall season.

3 SAIPAN

From Page 28

team divisions were not eligible to compete for the Top 8 spots.

The Guambats finished third place in their group, or 11th overall, which was not bad for a team that started in the 25th spot. Notably, the Gumabats won the Best Par-

tying Team Award.

"The top teams had a lot young Americans who obviously played a lot at their colleges. They were incredible," Epley said.

The Saipan trio and their Guambats teammates also found time for a volcano tour, hiking and snorkeling, as well as, some sightseeing in Cebu and Banaue.

Meanwhile, Epley said that in April next year, Saipan Ultimate is planning of sending a team to either a tournament in Jeju, Korea or in Bali, Indonesia. Four years ago, Saipan made it to the championship game against Singapore in Bali.

The group is also planning on hosting another tournament at Marpi baseball field in late March and invite some players

from Guam.

"Saipan is something like, 11-0 against Guam over the years," Epley said.

Epley added Saipan Ultimate would also like to form its own team that will represent the island in the Manila Spirits 2011.

About 10 countries were represented in Manila Spirits 2010.

SONICS

From Page 28

cause. Ed Manalili chipped in 12.

In the second semis game, Juan Maratita and Wes Tomokane combined for the last seven points for the third-ranked Ol'Aces to pull off an upset against the second-seeded Kagman Sparks.

The Ol'Aces entered the fourth canto behind by three, 39-42, when Ryan Lisua and Luther Taylor scored eight of the team's first 10 points to keep up with the Sparks. Ogu-moro then hit a crucial triple, while Tomokane had three

points and Maratita tallied fourth in the stretch to lift the Ol'Aces past the Sparks.

The Ol'Aces were off to a good start, leading by 10 after the first 10 minutes of play, 19-9. Ryan Ichihara, Lisua, and Maratita combined for 13 points for the Ol'Aces in the opening period.

In the second half, after being held to only four field goals, the Kagman Sparks slowly got their offense going, making 14 points to slice the Ol'Aces' lead to five at the break, 23-28.

Ichitaro Faisao, who was held to one field goal in the first half, caught fire in the third period, firing 10 points to put the Sparks

on top, 42-39.

The Ol'Aces lost the lead when only Maratita scored more than one field goal for the team in the third period. However, the Ol'Aces regained their composure in the fourth quarter and drew crucial baskets from Tomokane and Maratita to steal the win.

The Ol'Aces-Sonics title tiff in the U19 division will be played after the championship game in the U15 division between the Sonics and Rollers A at 5pm.

First Game

Sonics 81 – Galarse 17, Cadiang 14, Villanueva 12, Ajoste

9, Ecalnea 9, Sula 6, Salas 4, Barbo 2, Palacios 2.

G-Stars 63 – Kenty 15, Manalili 12, Concepcion 10, De Vero 10, D. Palacios 6, J. Palacios 5, Jung 2, Bicara 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-16, 48-31, 65-42, 81-63.

Second Game

Ol'Aces 60 – Maratita 16, Lisua 8, Ogu-moro 8, Ichihara 7, Tomokane 6, Douglas 5, Taylor 2, De Leon 2.

Kagman Sparks 57 – Ichitaro 13, Hossain 12, E. Manglona 10, Norita 8, M. Manglona 4, Sarmiento 4.

Scoring by quarters: 19-9, 28-23, 39-42, 60-57.

SPARKS

From Page 28

the Sparks ahead, 36-31.

Manglona added six more points in the fourth quarter to help put away the G-Stars. Manglona then left the game late in the quarter with a bloody nose, but his teammates held on for the win. Manglona led the Sparks with 17 points, while Christian Devero paced the G-Stars with 15 in the loss.

In the U16 consolation game, Rollers B jumped out to an early 13-7 lead.

Kwon Dixon and Shane Deleon Guerrero tallied four points apiece for Rollers B in the opening period, while Agape's James Lixing scored all the seven points of his team.

Agape mounted a comeback in the second quarter to trim the deficit to one point at the half, 17-18. Lixing found some help from his teammates in the second period and Agape's defense contained Rollers B to just five points in that quarter. Tao Yang led Agape with four points before the break.

Agape pushed it on in the third

quarter and took a two-point lead, 28-26, heading into the final quarter. Lixing again delivered all the points for Agape in the third period and outscored the entire Rollers B squad, 11-8.

Lixing battled phalanx of Rollers B defenders all game and that finally wore him down by the fourth quarter. He was held to just three markers at crunch time, while Rollers B reclaimed the lead midway through the final period and hung in there for the win,

First Game

Rollers B 37 – Dixon 10, Camacho 8, Deleon Guerrero 6, Capuyon 4, Malonzo 4, Ano 3, Pangelinan 2.

Agape 31 – Lixing 23, Yang 4, W. Jiang 2, Wei 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-7, 18-17, 26-28, 37-31.

Second Game

Sparks 53 – Manglona 17, Hossain 14, Faisao 8, Sarmiento 6, Mettao 4.

G-Stars 48 – Devero 15, Kenty 14, Manalili 13, Byun 2, Palacios 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-10, 24-25, 36-31, 53-48.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	19	4	.826	—
New York	15	9	.625	4 1/2
Toronto	9	15	.375	10 1/2
Philadelphia	7	15	.318	11 1/2
New Jersey	6	17	.261	13

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	17	8	.680	—
Orlando	15	8	.652	1
Atlanta	16	9	.640	1
Charlotte	8	15	.348	8
Washington	6	16	.273	9 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	14	8	.636	—
Indiana	11	11	.500	3
Milwaukee	9	13	.409	5
Cleveland	7	16	.304	7 1/2
Detroit	7	18	.280	8 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	19	3	.864	—
Dallas	19	4	.826	1/2

New Orleans	14	8	.636	5
Memphis	10	14	.417	10
Houston	9	14	.391	10 1/2

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	17	8	.680	—
Oklahoma City	16	8	.667	1/2
Denver	14	8	.636	1 1/2
Portland	12	11	.522	4
Minnesota	6	18	.250	10 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	16	7	.696	—
Phoenix	11	12	.478	5
Golden State	8	15	.348	8
Sacramento	5	16	.238	10
L.A. Clippers	5	19	.208	11 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Memphis 84, L.A. Clippers 83
Atlanta 97, Indiana 83
Boston 93, Charlotte 62
Toronto 120, Detroit 116
Chicago 113, Minnesota 82
Dallas 103, Utah 97
Houston 110, Cleveland 95
Miami 104, Sacramento 83

By The Associated Press

Weekend Sports

The biggest cycling event of the year hit the road last week with more than 100 runners completing the grueling 4th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.

Leading the list of finishers in the 100-kilometer race was Saipan's Mieko Carey, who topped the women's division to reclaim the crown she won in 2008. The 32-year-old triathlete timed in at three hours, 22 minutes, and 5.34 seconds, eclipsing her 2009 time (3:22:27).

In the men's division, Korean rider Joon Yong Seo submitted 3:02:52.41 to emerge as the overall finisher among

Bikers pedal through 'Hell'

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

more than 100 riders and beat the 2009 winning time (3:03:25.88) of Alexander Bagenov of Russia.

Completing the Top 3 in the men's division were Australia's Malcolm Rudolph (3:03:52.91) and Asian Games veteran Suk Yoon Choi (3:03:54.06). Rounding out the Top 3 in the women's division were Guam's Chiyo Lombard (3:39:31.41) and Korea's

Myo Jin Kim (3:50:19.38).

Other notable events last week were the pentathlon meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool, the playoff round of the Rotary youth caging, the friendly soccer game between the CNMI and Keio University Soccer Club, the U18 NMIFA football festival, NMIFA FA Cup playoffs, and the awards ceremony for the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

Ryuto Yanai and Lukas Kang made Tsunami Saipan's 100th record when they swam in the same heat in the boys U8 50m butterfly and both shattered the previous age group mark in that event.

Yanai timed in at 40.03 seconds in the 50m fly, while Kang clocked in at 40.36, as the two Tsunami Saipan swimmers broke the 43.06 seconds Kento Akimaru of Saipan Swim Club

logged on May 30, 2009.

Also setting records in the pentathlon meet was Kai Staal, who submitted 24.76 seconds in the 50m freestyle race, crushing his own record in the boys 15 to 16 age group (25.03 seconds) posted on May 22, 2010. Staal's time last week was also a new CNMI record, making him the first Commonwealth swimmer to break the 25-second barrier in the 50m freestyle.

In the Rotary caging, the U15 division was down to only two teams with the Sonics battling Rollers A in the finals today. The Sonics also advanced in the U19 finals and will face the Ol'Aces for the championship.

The visiting Keio University Soccer Club stormed past the CNMI in the friendly game at the Oleai Sports Complex, 7-0.

Still in soccer, MP United ruled the U18 football festival after beating Paire Football Club in a shootout, 3-2.

In the playoff round of the NMIFA FA Cup, MP United, Wild Bill's, Inter Godfather's and Korean Football Association on Saipan made it to the semifinals.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The lead pack pedals up to Papago during last week's 4th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bikers head up to the Bird Island Lookout during last week's 4th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Keio University Soccer Club striker has the ball during their friendly game against the CNMI at the Oleai Sports Complex. The Japanese won, 7-0.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Sonics' Leo Galarse goes for a layup during their playoff game against Rollers C in the U19 division of the Rotary caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Women's 4.0 singles champion Mikayla Lopez is flanked by runners-up Lydia Tan and Melody Johnson during the award ceremony for the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last week at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kai Staal at the medal podium after receiving his silver medal during the Tsunami Saipan pentathlon meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi last week.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United's Dae Min Jeon shows his golden boot plaque during the NMIFA U18 football festival award ceremony at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



Wade lifts
Heat to eighth
straight win

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Bikers pedal through 'Hell'

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28 MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MP United, Matansa reign in U14

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United and Matansa Football Club clinched the U14 championships in the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League after beating Paire Football Club in the finals last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.



MP United eased past the short-handed Paire Black, 6-1, in the boys U14 finals, while Matansa edged Paire in the girls U14 finals, 1-0.

Chris Park had a hat-trick in the title game, hitting back-to-back goals in the first half to lift MP United to a championship win and complete the team's domination of the fall league.

The Norman Del Rosario-coached MP United ruled the regular season of the fall league, having an unbeaten record, 6-0. In the playoffs, MP United also topped the Top 4 team bracket, beating Paire Red, Tan Holdings Football Club, and Paire Black, which finished second in the playoff round to arrange a title tiff against MP United.

In the finals, Paire Black had only eight players and was down to seven, going

See MP on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire Black, left, and MP United players collide as they go for a header during their title game in the boys U14 division of the NMIFA fall league last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Sonics, Ol'Aces set up U19 title duel



The Sonics' Leo Galarse, seen here going for a fall away jumper, scored 17 points in the team's 81-63 win against the G-Stars during their U19 semis game in the Rotary caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The Sonics and Ol'Aces notched contrasting semis wins to arrange their championship duel in the U19 division of the 2010 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League.

The Sonics dominated the G-Stars, 81-63, in the first semis tiff last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, while the Ol'Aces eked out a 60-57 triumph against the Kagman Sparks. The Sonics and the Ol'Aces will dispute the championship today at 7pm.

The G-Stars played in the semifinals sans main man Marvin Rabauliman, allowing the Sonics to cruise to an 18-point victory.

Without Rabauliman leading the G-Stars' charge, the Sonics erected an early 12-point lead in the first quarter, 28-16. John Paul Villanueva had his guns blazing in the opening period, drilling nine of his 12 points in that canto to lift the Sonics to a big lead.

The G-Stars never recovered from thereon, as the Sonics did a great job protecting their double-digit advantage.

Leo Galarse paced the Sonics with 17 points, while Cadiang tallied 14. Clayton Kenty had 15 in the G-Stars' losing

See SONICS on Page 26

3 Saipan players compete in Manila frisbee tourney

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan Ultimate Frisbee members Rob Epley, Steven Gardiner, and Amanda Allen teamed up with the Guambats of Guam and competed in the Manila Spirits 2010 last month at the Clark Parade Grounds in Clark Freeport City, Philippines.

The Guambats ended up ranked

25 in the 32-team field. They won all their four games in the opening day of the tournament and topped the Lower 16 division.

In the second day of the competition that ran from November 26 to 28, the Saipan and Guam representatives had an opportunity to vie for the ninth to 15th place. Teams that started in the lower bracket of the two 16-

See 3 SAIPAN on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Rob Epley, Amanda Allen, and Steven Gardiner pose for a photo during a break in the Manila Spirits 2010 frisbee competition last month at the Clark Parade Grounds in Clark Freeport City, Philippines.

Sparks, Rollers B settle for third

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Kagman Sparks and Rollers B finished the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League season in third place after prevailing in separate consolation games last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Sparks knocked off the G-Stars, 53-48, in the battle for third place in the U19 division, while Rollers B defeated Agape, 37-31, in its U15 consolation game.

The Sparks hung on to a slim lead in the first quarter, 11-10, as both teams started slow. Sahj Hossain led

the Sparks with five markers in the opening quarter.

The G-Stars rallied back in the second to turn the table on the Sparks at halftime, 25-24.

Eddie Manalili led the charge for the G-Stars with five points in the second quarter.

Then the Sparks made some key defensive adjustments during the break and regained control of the game in the third quarter.

Eugene Manglona stepped up for the Sparks in the third quarter with six points to match the G-Stars team effort in the period, which ended with

See SPARKS on Page 26



WALTER SUTHERLAND

The Rollers B players and coaches pose for a group photo after beating Agape in the third place game in the U15 division of the Rotary caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.